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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Lori Hacking: Family and friends buried the remains of Lori Hacking on Saturday, eight days after her body was found in a Salt Lake County Utah, landfill. Police officers who assisted in the search were also invited to the private ceremony at Orem City Cemetery.

Hacking's mother, Thelma Soares, placed a red rose on the casket and hugged Sgt. J.R. Nelson, the Salt Lake City police officer who found the remains while sifting through garbage on Oct. 1.

Serial murder trial: Louisiana prosecutors seeking to link a series of killings to one man presented evidence Saturday that the victims had all apparently been raped and had bruises on their hands as if they had tried to fight off their attacker.

Experts also testified that biological evidence found at the scene of one of the murders matched Derrick Todd Lee's DNA profile.

Prosecutors said they planned to introduce DNA evidence that would connect Lee with three other deaths across southern Louisiana from 1998 to 2003. Lee is on trial for the death of 22-year-old Charlotte Murray Pace, who was found slashed, beaten and stabbed 81 times in May 2002. He has already been convicted of killing another woman.

Mount St. Helens watch: Mount St. Helens in Washington state shot off a new cloud of steam Sunday just as scientists arrived for another day of monitoring the rumbling volcano.

The billow of dark steam rose at dawn from an area of the crater where a large upwelling of rock has been growing rapidly. The plume rose several hundred feet above the 8,364-foot volcano, and light wind slowly blew it toward the south and southeast.

Scientists did not immediately determine whether the steam cloud contained any volcanic ash, said an information officer at the joint information center in Vancouver, Wash., about 50 miles south of the mountain.

The steam emission followed an increase in earthquake activity over the previous two days, with quakes of magnitude 2.4 occurring every two minutes until Sunday, when the vibrations were more frequent but weakened to magnitude 1 or less.

World

Israeli-Palestinian conflict: An Israeli air-

craft fired a missile at a home near a Hamas stronghold in the Jebalya refugee camp on Sunday, killing one civilian and wounding eight other Palestinians, hospital officials said.

It was not immediately clear why the army targeted the house, which was near the Khofa Mosque, a power base for the militant group Hamas. The army did not immediately comment.

The strike killed a 38-year-old Palestinian civilian and seriously wounded eight other Palestinians, including a girl, hospital officials said. It also caused extensive damage to homes and stores nearby, witnesses said.

Zimbabwe farming dispute: Police have stopped evicting black farmers settled on formerly white-owned land after a court ordered the government to clarify the farmers' status, the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper reported.

At least 900 black farmers who were resettled under the nation's chaotic land redistribution program have been evicted in recent weeks from farming districts around Harare after government officials said they were not correctly located under the program.

The evicted farmers claim the expulsions are part of turf wars between local ruling party officials and other politicians.

At one resettled farm about 60 miles northwest of Harare, riot police last month drove off more than 400 families from small plots they had occupied for three years. Police torched most of the shacks and huts. The High Court on Wednesday ordered police to halt the evictions and allow ousted families to return. The court ordered the government to resolve the allocation of the plots or make alternative arrangements to resettle affected families.

Bangladesh protest: Police armed with batons broke up an anti-government protest march in Dhaka on Sunday, injuring more than 30 demonstrators and arresting at least 100, police said.

The rally in Dhaka was part of a nationwide strike called by Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League party to protest recent attacks on its supporters and pressure the government to resign.

Opposition leaders accuse Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government of incompetence and widespread corruption — charges which it denies.

The dawn-to-dusk strike also coincided with the anniversary of Zia's third year in office. Sunday is a working day in Mus-

lim-majority Bangladesh.

Chinese skyscraper plans: A pair of Chinese companies have been awarded bids worth \$470 million to build what China is touting as the world's tallest skyscraper in Shanghai, an official newspaper reported Sunday.

The roof of the planned 101-story Shanghai World Financial Center is to rise to 1,624 feet. That would put it 121 feet higher than the 1,493-foot-tall roof of Taipei 101 in Taiwan, regarded now as the world's tallest skyscraper. However, the Shanghai Center would still be shorter than Taipei 101, if the Taiwanese building's spire is included, giving it a total height of 1,679 feet spire.

Military

Georgia supply aid: A U.S. military transport plane on Sunday delivered a shipment of uniforms and other military gear worth \$1.1 million to the former Soviet republic's armed forces.

Part of the shipment is intended for Georgian troops who are set to go on a peacekeeping mission in Iraq, said Natia Chikviani, a spokeswoman for the Georgian defense ministry. Georgia, which now has 159 soldiers in Iraq, has pledged to increase their number later this month.

A total of 2,500 Georgian soldiers have received training under the U.S. program, which included instruction in anti-terror techniques. It also provided weapons, uniforms and other supplies.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo tribunal: A U.S. military review tribunal on Saturday considered the legal status of two prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, allegedly linked to al-Qaida and two others accused of fighting with the Taliban, an official said.

One prisoner, who allegedly saw al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden twice while training to fight in Afghanistan, refused to attend his hearing, said Navy Capt. Beci Brenton, a spokeswoman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The prisoner — the 58th to boycott the proceedings at the U.S. base in Cuba — allegedly fought against U.S. forces in Afghanistan and surrendered during the bombing campaign in Tora Bora, Brenton said.

The three others attended their hearings, but details on their testimony weren't provided. The military did not release any nationalities.

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AAFES raising movie ticket prices

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

The cost of catching a movie overseas on Army and Air Force installations is about to go up.

For the first time in a decade, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is increasing the price of admission in its overseas Reel Time Theaters — bumping ticket charges by 50 cents for adults and a quarter for children ages 6-11.

The change, which will be applied to first-run blockbusters, regular releases and repeat showings, takes effect Friday, said Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Glenn, a spokeswoman at AAFES Pacific Region headquarters on Okinawa.

"We've held prices in check for the last 10 years," she said, "but increases in busi-

"We've held prices in check for the last 10 years, but increases in business expenses forced us to raise prices marginally."

ness expenses forced us to raise prices marginally."

Rising business expenditures at the theaters over the past decade have been absorbed by local exchanges, AAFES officials said. That's led to operating losses at many locations.

Glenn dismissed speculation that the price hike was implemented to enhance funding for the global war on terrorism, saying she had no knowledge of any such

Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Glenn

AAFES Pacific Region headquarters spokeswoman

arrangement.

Beginning Friday, patrons at overseas Army and Air Force theaters must pay the following admission rates:

First-run movies — \$4 for adults and \$2 for children

Regular releases — \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children

Repeat showings — \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children

Compared to commercial theaters in the

United States, Glenn said, the prices remain pretty friendly.

"AAFES Reel Time Theaters are still the best entertainment bargain out there," she said. "We're still better than anything else."

According to the National Association of Theater Owners Web site, the average cost of a movie ticket in 2003 was \$6.03. The AAFES adjusted prices are more than 33 percent below that figure, Glenn said.

The increases won't affect AAFES theaters on Army installations in South Korea or deployed sites in the Balkans and Southwest Asia, she added. Those facilities have special memorandums of agreement in place, with troops getting the movies for free. The cost is picked up by Morale, Welfare and Recreation detachments.

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FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Okinawans dressed in traditional black costumes pull on half of the giant rope as they prepare to merge the two pieces for the world's largest tug-of-war.

West side wins annual Naha tug-of-war contest

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — When participants at the Naha Great Tug-of-War say it was an event for the books, they mean it.

The annual event is anchored by the world's biggest straw rope — weighing in at more than 40 tons. It's listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

More than 200,000 people — thousands of whom take part in the tug-of-war — typically attend the event, the highlight of a three-day festival.

The rope is in two pieces. Approximately 90 solid ropes are twisted together to make up its core. The core then is covered with surface ropes. Pulling ropes are attached to the surface. When laid out, the rope looks like a giant centipede.

Before the tug-of-war could begin, the crowd helped pull the two pieces of rope toward each other. When the rope ends were next to each other, men using large sticks picked up the looped the end of one rope and slowly placed it over the looped end of the other.

The process took more than 15 minutes.

Finally, a giant wooden peg was stuck through the two pieces to hold them together.

As every year, the competition pits the east side of Naha against the west.

Once the order was given to begin, men standing on top of the ropes yelled or blew whistles signaling to their teams to tug as hard as they could. A short while later, the shouts of encouragement stopped. The contest was over; the west side had won. Participants then jumped onto the rope and began dancing. Then it seemed almost everyone pulled out a knife.

The custom, Okinawans say, is that the families of those who cut off and take home a piece of the rope will find happiness and be in good health for the year — a custom that also may explain why the pulling ropes were replaced every year.

Air Force Staff Sgts. Travis Browner and Andre Skeete, both taking part in the festival for the first time, went home with approximately an eight-foot section of the rope.

Skeete said he was surprised to see how large the rope was.

"This was great," Browner said. "It's good to see the Okinawans and Americans down here working together."

The annual tug-of-war has been held consecutively since 1971, but Okinawan historians have said the contest dates back to the 17th century.

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Pot-laden package gets teen arrested

Civilian's son, 19, had marijuana sent to him in jar of peanut butter

BY CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CHATAN — A 19-year-old dependent son of a U.S. civilian military employee was in Okinawa police custody Sunday, accused of having marijuana shipped to him from the United States in a plastic jar of peanut butter.

An Okinawa prefectural police duty officer in Okinawa City said the teen was arrested at about 5:45 p.m. Friday at his off-base home in Chatan after he received a package containing the substance. The police officer said the teen admitted to police investigators that he'd arranged to have a friend mail the package from the United States.

The name of the dependent is being withheld because he is considered a minor under Japanese law, police said. The base where the young man's parent is employed is not immediately known.

Approximately 0.525 ounces of marijuana, a street value of about \$545, was found inside the peanut butter jar, police said. At the end of last month, a mailman delivered the package containing the jar to the young man's home but he refused to receive it, the police said. Later, however, he called the post office, claiming that the package belonged to him, said the police.

The package again was delivered to his home Friday; he was arrested on the spot, said police, who sent the case to the Naha District Public Prosecutor's Office on Sunday.

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Troop cuts could come after Iraq elections

Rumsfeld says level of violence determines if numbers can drop after January vote

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — The United States may be able to reduce its troop levels if Iraq after the January elections if security improves and Iraqi government forces continue to expand and improve, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday.

In a question-and-answer session with hundreds of Marines assembled in an aircraft hangar at this desert air base in western Iraq, Rumsfeld was asked what the future holds for the length and frequency of troop deployments in the country.

Rumsfeld, on his first visit to Iraq since its interim government was installed in June, said the insurgent violence is likely to get worse in the weeks ahead, so troop reductions are unlikely. The United States now has about 135,000 troops in Iraq.

"Our hope is that as we build up Iraqi forces, we will be able to reduce the strength of our forces and see a reduction in coalition forces over some period of time, probably post-Iraq elections," the Pentagon chief said. "But actually, I think it will depend on the security situation here in this country."

Before Rumsfeld appeared at the main operating base of the 3rd Marine Air Wing, the approx-



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks to U.S. troops Sunday at Al Asad Air Base in the western Iraq desert with Iraqi Minister of Defense Hazim al-Shaalan, left. Rumsfeld, on his first visit to Iraq since its interim government was installed, said the nation's insurgent violence is likely to get worse in the weeks ahead.

mately 1,500 Marines in his audience were given instructions by Sgt. Maj. Dennis Reed on what not to ask.

"Don't ask when you're going home. We'll tell you when you're going home," Reed said.

Rumsfeld then gave a pep talk

and fielded questions at a town-hall-style meeting. "We're so fortunate to be able to count on you in this time of peril," Rumsfeld said to applause.

The secretary later flew to Baghdad and met with U.S. ambassador John Negroponte; Gen.

George Casey, the top American commander in Iraq; and Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who is in charge of training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

Accompanying Rumsfeld on the flight in a Black Hawk helicopter was Hazim al-Shaalan, Iraq's

interim defense minister.

As a reminder of the tenuous security situation in the Iraqi capital, the fleet of Black Hawks carrying Rumsfeld and his entourage flew at high speed, just above rooftop level, occasionally zigzagging en route to the International Zone where the U.S. Embassy is located.

Casey told reporters that he and Rumsfeld did not discuss U.S. troops levels in their meeting.

"If I need more troops, as the secretary said, I will ask for them," He added that the number of trained Iraqi forces is going to increase by 45,000 by election time.

Rumsfeld also met with Ayad Allawi, the interim Iraqi prime minister, at the government's headquarters not far from the U.S. Embassy.

Allawi, referring twice to Rumsfeld as the secretary of state — the job held by Colin Powell — thanked him for the United States' help in giving Iraqis their freedom.

The trip was Rumsfeld's sixth to Iraq but his first to Anbar province, which includes portions of the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad. The region had been the heart of tribal support for deposed President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. There was no update provided by the department on Saturday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths, Italy 19, Poland 13, Spain 11, Bulgaria six, Ukraine, eight, Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Car bombers strike twice in Baghdad

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bombers struck twice in rapid succession in the Iraqi capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people, including an American soldier, and wounding at least 16.

Iraq's most feared terror group — Tawhid and Jihad — claimed responsibility for the near-simultaneous car bombings, one near an east Baghdad police academy and the other outside an east Baghdad market as an American military convoy was passing by.

An American soldier was fatally injured in the convoy attack, U.S. and Iraqi officials said. One Iraqi was also injured. The Kindi Hospital said it received 10 bodies from the police academy blast, and police said 15 others were injured there.

The dead at Kindi hospital included three police academy students and a female officer.

In a statement posted on the Web, Tawhid and Jihad, led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said the car bombings were carried out by its military wing and were "martyrdom" operations, meaning suicide attacks.

Al-Zarqawi's group also warned it would continue "to slaughter infidels" until the Americans and their Iraqi allies release all women detained in Iraq. The warning was part of a message contained in a videotape posted Sunday on the Web depicting the brutal decapitation of British hostage Kenneth Bigley.

Bigley, whose death was announced by his family Friday, was shown pleading for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to save his life moments before assailants severed his head with a knife. His body has not been found.

The Sunday Times newspaper of London reported Sunday that Bigley was killed after



A U.S. soldier attends to an injured Iraqi man Sunday after a minibus packed with explosives detonated near a downtown police academy in Baghdad. Two car bombs shook the Iraqi capital in quick succession Sunday morning, killing at least 11 people, including an American soldier.

briefly escaping by car after British intelligence helped bribe two of the captors. Bigley was recaptured and the two captors who helped him were killed, the newspaper said.

Elsewhere, the U.S. command said a Marine was killed Saturday by hostile fire in Anbar province but gave no further details. Insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy Sunday near the western town of Hiri. U.S. officials said. Marines killed three of their attackers and wounded five but suffered no casualties.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi intelligence officer was killed Sunday morning in a drive-by shooting as he left home for work, according to Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman of the Interior Ministry.

South of the capital, the U.S. command said 15 more insurgents were rounded up Saturday in a joint American-Iraqi operation to suppress resistance in an area notorious for ambushes and kidnappings. At least 78 people have been apprehended since the push began last week, the military said Sunday.

Alawi uses new tactic for peace

Guns-and-diplomacy policy bears Sadr City deal; is Fallujah next?

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Blending diplomacy with American firepower, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi is moving closer to bringing rebel areas under government control before national elections in January.

In just over a week, joint U.S.-Iraqi forces smashed militants in Samarra, forced a truce with Shiite gunmen in Baghdad and pursued insurgents south of the capital.

Fallujah, the biggest headache of all, appears next in line for a political rather than a military solution, which — if all goes according to plan — would bring the rebellious city back under government control.

In dealing with Fallujah and the Shiite gunmen in the Baghdad district of Sadr City, Allawi used America's military might to pressure his foes while still keeping open lines of communication with insurgents.

For weeks, U.S. warplanes, tanks and helicopter gunships went into action almost daily against Shiite militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad and against Fallujah militants led by Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In both Sadr City and Fallujah, the airstrikes and the shelling have taken a heavy toll on insurgents as well as civilians, leaving behind hundreds grumbling that the militants should stand down.

Al-Sadr aides announced Saturday that militiamen will begin surrendering heavy and medium weapons next week in a first step toward halting violence in Sadr City.

Meanwhile, defense ministry officials and the chief negotiator from Fallujah, Sheikh Khaled al-Jumaili, said a deal could be struck soon to bring the embattled city under government control.

"The talks have reached their final stages and a truce may be imminent," a well-placed De-

fense Ministry source said on condition of anonymity.

Another ministry official, who also requested anonymity, said the deal would include an end to U.S. airstrikes against the city.

In return, militants would hand over medium and heavy weapons to Iraqi authorities and allow government forces to take control of Fallujah.

American troops, who are deployed outside Fallujah, would

not be allowed to patrol the city "under any circumstances," al-Jumaili said.

Returning Fallujah to government control without bloodshed would be a major victory for Allawi. It would also enable the Bush administration to avoid another major battle for control of Fallujah.

In April, U.S. Marines attacked the city but suspended the operation three weeks later after a wave of criticism from foreign governments and America's Iraqi allies.

The Marines turned the city over to the Fallujah Brigade, who soon lost control to religious extremists and disbanded.

According to officials from both sides, the main issue standing in the way of a final agreement is the makeup of the Iraqi National Guard unit that would be sent to the city. The Fallujah delegation, which met with the government Saturday, insists that the unit be made up exclusively of city residents.

However, the government, mindful of the failure of the Fallujah Brigade, wants the unit to include soldiers from all over Iraq.

Al-Jumaili said one possible compromise might be to transfer Fallujah residents living in the National Guard elsewhere in Iraq back to their home city.

"That will assure the government that they will not be attacked," he said.

Al-Jumaili said the issue of foreign fighters in Fallujah has not been raised so far in the negotiations. The United States insisted in April that foreign fighters must leave.

Long trek for donated medical supplies



AMEER RUSCO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A combat logistics patrol lines up to deliver medical supplies to the beleaguered Samarra Hospital earlier this month. Company C of the 299th Forward Support Battalion, part of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-26, and the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion pooled their resources to provide the supplies to help care for Iraqi civilians hurt in the recent fighting between U.S. forces and insurgents in the city. Supplies include an array of bandages, needles and catheters for fluid replacement and emergency airway kits, plus basic antibiotics, low-level medications and pediatric emergency equipment. Another package is being prepared for later delivery.

Allies urged to pay donations to Iraq

BY ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Hoping to keep much-needed cash flowing into war-ravaged Iraq, Japan will hold a 50-nation Iraqi reconstruction donors' conference this week that may focus less on getting new pledges than on getting countries to honor their earlier promises.

The two-day conference, starting Wednesday, is a follow-up to a high-profile meeting in Madrid last year in which 37 countries and international lending institutions pledged billions of dollars in grants and loans.

Only about \$1 billion of the pledged amount has been deposited

in World Bank and U.N. funds for Iraq.

Several members of Iraq's Cabinet, including Mahdi al-Hafidhi, minister of planning and development, are expected to attend the Tokyo conference to explain their efforts and try to sway participants to dig deep.

Iraq's delegation has not been officially announced due to security concerns.

Last month, al-Hafidhi criticized donor countries for not fulfilling their financial commitments, for focusing too much money on security and for not allowing Iraqis to benefit from grants.

"Almost 65 percent of the money allocated to most projects

is spent on providing security and protection to the projects and their personnel," he said during a U.N.-organized three-day symposium.

Though the situation in Iraq remains unstable, Japanese officials say they hope potential new donors may come forward now that Iraq has an internationally recognized government. An interim government took over in July, and elections are scheduled for January.

Japan, which has pledged \$5 billion through 2007 for humanitarian assistance and rebuilding, is the second-highest contributor after the United States, with its pledge of \$18.4 billion — of which about \$6 billion has been set aside for reconstruction.

Malaysian prime minister denies oil-for-food kickback from Saddam

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday denied U.S. allegations that he received kickbacks from an alleged scam by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to undermine a U.N. oil-for-food program.

In a report issued Wednesday, Charles Duelfer, head of the U.S. Iraq Survey Group, said Saddam issued secret vouchers for the purchase of oil, which could then be resold at a profit, to officials and political figures from various countries — mainly Russia, France and China.

"I just want to find out how much my name is there," Abdullah told reporters.

The Iraq Survey Group is a U.S. government body assigned to hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The report said former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and radical Russian political figure Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had received the vouchers.

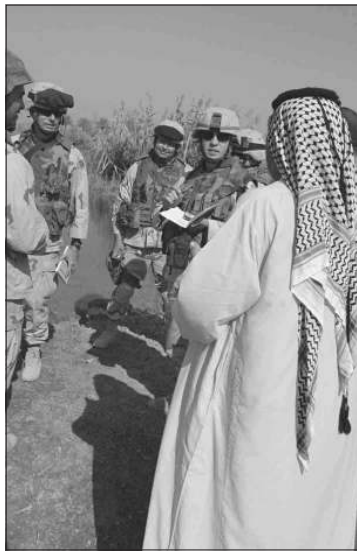
It also listed a "Mr. Abdullah Badawi" as one of the recipients, but didn't explicitly identify him as the Malaysian leader, and gave no further details.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar vowed to investigate the matter, voicing concerns there might be "people who want to smear the good name of this nation's leadership."

Abdullah, who succeeded long-time Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad in October, said he was surprised to be implicated in the report.

He said he had supported several Malaysian businessmen's bids to participate in the U.N. oil-for-food program — but he made it clear he was not personally involved.

"I said that I have also supported Malaysian companies that wanted to participate in the oil-for-food program for Iraq," Abdullah said. The oil-for-food program was designed to allow limited oil sales to pay for humanitarian goods, but critics and U.S. congressional investigators have long alleged that U.N. administration of the program was rife with corruption.



JULIANA GITTIER/Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Thomas Hernandez, center front, holding notebook, talks to a local Iraqi farmer about flooding on his land near Ash-Shumali, Babil province, Iraq. In the background are other members of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment's civil-military operations team: Sgt. Brian Freeman, left, and Capt. Rafael Obieta, background center.

Guardsmen win over Iraqis with reconstruction tasks

Plan keeps the peace while rebuilding area south of Baghdad

JULIANA GITTIER

Stars and Stripes

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER
SCANIA, Iraq — A group of California National Guard soldiers has assumed an unfamiliar job in southern Iraq: building bridges, buildings and culverts while helping to maintain security in a small sliver of the war-torn nation.

Members of the 1st Battalion 185th Armor Regiment arrived in Iraq and assumed security operations in an area 150 miles south of Baghdad. As part of their security plan, they are working on civil-military operations that help locals stay peaceful by rebuilding their communities.

"These folks are pretty coalition friendly, which lets us get our projects off the ground quickly," said team leader Capt. Scott R. Moreland. "That's why it's remained peaceful. We really aggressively pursued civil-military operations as a command-sponsored operation."

The concept is an Army standard. But the soldiers making it happen are unconventional. They normally work with tanks and infantry. It's their backgrounds that made the difference.

"The beauty is we came in with some background," said Sgt. Brian Freeman, an electrical engineer, who previously did project

management in the Air Force. "The only thing that changed for me is the body armor and the scale of the projects."

Also on the team is 1st Lt. Thomas Hernandez, who was in a civil affairs unit as an enlisted soldier, and Capt. Rafael Obieta, a civilian defense contractor for the Air Force.

Using their experience, they built a civil affairs program from scratch.

"We had to kind of create it ourselves," Moreland said.

They started smaller, less expensive projects that would be easier to complete. They rebuilt battered footbridges over canals that saved locals from walking miles out of their way. Cement water culverts helped farmers with irrigation.

"Our credibility skyrocketed when we initiated our first project in May," said Lt. Col. James B. Sayers, the battalion commander. "A lot of grandiose projects are great. But we stick to the basics."

Doing small jobs, the Guard members have completed more than most other battalion-size civil-military operations.

The team uses local engineers to plan, price jobs and hires local contractors to build them. They work closely with local leaders to prioritize.

"The bottom line is we're getting the Iraqis involved," Obieta said.

The team of about a dozen people — some doing projects while others conduct security and information gathering — has completed 31 projects and is working on 11 more.

Their success is demonstrated by stability in the region, the Guard members say. Local residents, pleased with their improvements, chased away insurgents over the summer and provide intelligence, Sayers said. There have been few attacks in the area for months.

"I think our CMO program is a major part of our force protection," Sayers said.

The group's success is similar to other units with a mission. A project database created by Freeman and the team's operating procedures are circulating in other areas where battalions hope to re-create the results.

The team members, despite doing jobs the Army didn't train them for, are rewarded by the results.

"I can go home now and tell my son, here are the good things we did for the people of Iraq," Moreland said. "It's like our own little Peace Corps with guns."

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U.S. moving forward on Iraqi schools renovations

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — American officials say the U.S. Project and Contracting Office is completing renovations on about 200 schools, and it soon plans to begin work on 1,000 more.

They also say the project is being done without swarms of subcontractors — who the Iraqi government claims have contributed to shoddy work in the past.

And it's all working with a minimum investment in security, thanks to low-profile operations.

So far, work has focused on the southern part of the country, but will soon move north. The entire project will cost \$79 million, or about \$35,000 to \$65,000 per school.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Iraq's Ministry of Education and local headmasters decide what the schools need, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signs off on the quality of the completed work before contractors are paid. Iraqis are doing the on-site work so as not to attract attention, saving money on security costs.

Still, these Iraqis won't be hiring other Iraqi companies, who in turn hire yet others.

"The one thing we focused on is making sure there were not a lot of layers of contractors," the U.S. official said during a background briefing Sunday.

Large companies and organizations remain involved at the top level. Work is being managed by groups including KBR, an affiliate of Halliburton, the corporation formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney; Worpington Group International; U.S. Agency for International Development; and Save the Children.

The oversight and subsequent desire to minimize subcontracting follows complaints by Iraq's Ministry of Education over previous renovations by both nongovernmental organizations and large firms, in particular the Bechtel Corp.

A second official, a U.S. consultant involved in the renovation, said some charities abandoned work once Iraq became more dangerous in March. Iraq's criticism of Bechtel has been more generally aimed at the quality of work done.

Bechtel has released a statement defending its work in Iraq.

"A number of inaccurate and misleading statements have been made recently regarding Bechtel's work under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Iraq, suggesting that Bechtel has won enormous deals, overcharged the federal government, and failed to employ Iraqis," its release read. "These charges simply are not true. ... Bechtel stands proud of the contribution the men and women on the project are making to this critical postwar effort."

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Soldier who refused Iraq service gets jail

A Vilsbib, Germany-based soldier accused of faking mental illness to avoid serving in Iraq was sentenced Thursday to 11 months in prison, according to the 1st Infantry Division's staff judge advocate.

Spc. Jason Lux, 24, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, pleaded guilty to two counts of missing a troop movement. As part of a plea agreement, military prosecutors dropped a charge of malingering, said Capt. Jonathan Larcomb, the division's senior trial counsel.

Larcomb said Lux had been sent home to Germany in mid-March, six weeks after the 2-2 Infantry deployed to Iraq, to undergo an emergency appendectomy. After his convalescence leave ended, he was allowed to stay three extra weeks to see the birth of his child.

Then Lux told his commanders he was depressed and suicidal and unable to return to Iraq. Three psychiatrists, Larcomb said, pronounced Lux fit to deploy, and his command scheduled him to fly back in June.

The first time he went to his psychiatrist, and the second time he refused to go — although Larcomb said, he had been offered a noncombat job. His attorney, Capt. Rob Stelle, said in court Lux had told his command he feared he might hurt himself or someone else if he deployed.

From staff reports

IN THE WORLD

Bedouin likely sold explosives used in Egypt

Palestinian militant involvement suspected

The Associated Press

TABA, Egypt — A Bedouin tribesman has confessed to selling explosives that might have been used in three car bombings targeting Israeli tourists, and investigators were looking into Palestinian militant involvement, Egyptian security officials said Sunday.

The tribesman said the buyers, whom he couldn't identify, had told him the explosives would be used in the Palestinian territories, an Egyptian investigator told The Associated Press.

The explosives were sold on the assumption that they were going to the Palestinians," the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Three car bombs, each packed with 440 pounds of explosives, exploded Thursday

night, one at the Taba Hilton just south of the Egypt-Israel border and two at a town of beach bungalows, Ras Shitan, 35 miles south on the Red Sea.

Israeli rescue crews finished their work at the shattered Hilton and went home Sunday evening, saying prayers for the dead as Egyptian civil defense officers cleared the rubble with axes and sledgehammers under generator-powered floodlights.

Egypt put the death toll at 34. Israeli Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh said at the Taba border crossing that 32 bodies had been found, plus 14 body parts that may include the remains of others.

The dead included Egyptians, Israelis, Italians, a Russian woman and others from the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, he said.

Egyptian security officials said some of dozens of Bedouins detained for questioning after the car bombings in Taba and the resort area of Ras Shitan to the south have been cooperating with authorities and

have provided valuable information about the explosives.

Israeli officials have complained in the past of weapons and explosives being smuggled into the Gaza strip from Sinai. The Israelis maintain they come through tunnels dug beneath the Egypt-Gaza border.

Palestinian and Egyptian officials also told AP that Egyptian security and intelligence officers have been discussing the attacks with officials from the Palestinian factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Egyptians were seeking information about members of the groups upset about Egypt's plan to help secure the Gaza Strip in the event of an Israeli withdrawal. Egypt has come under fire from some Arabs for allegedly aiding Israel. Egypt maintains it needs to ensure stability along its border in the event of a security vacuum left by Israel's departure.

The officials said Egypt is not suggesting the two factions were behind the attacks, but rather are probing the possibility that disgruntled defectors from the groups might have been involved.



Israeli army and Egyptian rescuers sift through rubble looking for human remains in the partially-destroyed Taba Hilton hotel in Taba, Egypt.

Death toll up to six in wake of Ma-on

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The death toll from a powerful typhoon that swiped Japan's Pacific coast rose to six on Sunday, as rescuers searched for three people still missing from the heavy rains and flooding.

Ma-on, the record eighth typhoon to strike Japan this year, was the most powerful storm to reach the eastern coastline in a decade.

It brought sustained winds of 100 miles per hour and sudden downpours that turned streets into rivers, flooded subways and set off landslides.

As the storm passed through Tokyo and Shizuoka prefecture Saturday, it dumped more than three inches of rain in an hour, the Meteorological Agency said. Late Saturday, it turned eastward into the Pacific Ocean, where it slowed and weakened.

As much as 17 inches of rain fell in parts of eastern Japan since Friday — nearly equal to the average rainfall for October of 19 inches.

On Sunday, workers in Kamakura and Yokohama cleared railway tracks of fallen trees and other debris that had forced the closure of local lines, and subway staff in Tokyo mopped up stations flooded by water that poured in from streets.

On the Izu peninsula, about 95 miles southwest of Tokyo, residents and hoteliers repaired tattered roofs, shoveled muddy water that flowed into buildings and cleared the harbor of overturned boats flung into the water by winds. Flights at Tokyo's Haneda and Narita airports — where hundreds of flights were cancelled the day before — were on schedule, media reported.

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2 U.N. peacekeepers wounded in Haiti

BY STEVENSON JACOBS

The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — Two U.N. peacekeepers were wounded in shootouts with supporters of Haiti's ousted president in the capital and storm survivors in flood-ravaged Gonaives, the first casualties of the 4-month-old U.N. mission, officials said Sunday.

Relief workers from Doctors Without Borders also came under attack in Gonaives, and the French group said it was evacuating its staff of seven until security improves.

Outside a memorial Mass for flood victims of Tropical Storm Jeanne, an Argentine soldier was shot in the arm Saturday after protesters shouted abuse at visiting leaders of Haiti's U.S.-backed government, accusing them of not doing enough to help.

Heavy gunfire erupted in Port-au-Prince on Saturday as about 150-Prince troops in ar-

Soldiers shot during protest against government over poor storm relief

more vehicles and 150 Haitian police in trucks rolled into the volatile slum of Bel Air, where armed young men have barricaded themselves behind torched vehicles and bonfires, demanding the return of Aristide from exile in South Africa.

A Brazilian soldier was wounded in the foot, the first casualty among some 3,000 Brazilian-led peacekeepers, U.N. spokesman Toussaint Kongo-Dondou said. He said it appeared some gunmen were wounded.

The clashes came a day after the beheaded bodies of a father and son were found in the Port-au-Prince slum of La Saline.

The government has blamed Aristide supporters for the violence in Port-au-Prince, saying

they are behind a campaign called "Operation Baghdad" and the recent beheadings of three police officers and others.

At least 26 people have been killed in violence that erupted as Aristide supporters stepped up protests Sept. 30, demanding his return and an end to "the invasion" — referring to U.S. Marines who arrived as Aristide left and U.N. peacekeepers who took over in June.

The U.S. State Department has warned Americans not to travel to the Caribbean country except for emergencies, citing "serious risks."

Aristide supporters blame the violence on anti-Aristide gunmen and police they say opened fire on unarmed protesters. They also

criticize interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue for not disarming rebels whom Latortue has hailed as liberators.

But on Saturday, the gunmen turned their wrath on him.

"If the government doesn't take responsibility for things here, then we will. Remember, it was Gonaives that got rid of Aristide," rebel fighter Wilford Ferdinand told hundreds of onlookers after a memorial Mass in the northwestern city of Gonaives. The rebels' three-week rebellion forced Aristide to flee the country Feb. 29.

An estimated 200,000 people are homeless in Gonaives, many living on sidewalks and rooftops, and thousands remain hungry despite a massive international humanitarian effort.

The storm unleashed floods and mudslides that killed at least 1,870 and left some 884 missing, most presumed dead.

Associated Press writer Stevenson Jacobs in Gonaives contributed to this report.

Taiwan calls for talks with China

BY STEPHAN GRAUVELS

The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan's leader called for peace talks and other "concrete actions" to reduce tensions with rival China during a National Day speech on Sunday that was far more conciliatory than in years past.

President Chen Shui-bian avoided language and issues that had raised tensions in the past during the speech, and even extended Taiwan's best wishes to China prepares for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

"Taiwan is pleased to witness the steady progress, reforms and peaceful emergence of China," he said.

The address was highly anticipated because Chen had promised to make an "important announcement" that would improve relations with China, which has repeatedly threatened to attack the island.

Chen said that the two sides could use a 1992 meeting in Hong Kong between the rivals' envoys as a model for a new round of talks. The 1992 discussions led to a series of ice-breaking meetings, which later broke off amid differences about Taiwan's political status.

The president didn't spell out what he meant by the proposal. Nor did he say whether he just meant the two sides should use envoys who would talk in Hong Kong.

Still, Chen refused to cave into China's long-standing precondition for talks: that Taiwan agree it's an inseparable part of China. The two sides split when Communists won a civil war in 1949 and took over the mainland, just 100 miles west of Taiwan.

He also accused China of pointing 60 ballistic missiles at Taiwan and adding 50 to 75 more each year. "The threat of military force poses the greatest shadows of terror and forces of darkness across the Taiwan Strait," Chen said.

"Any conflict in the Taiwan Strait could result in irreparable damage to the peoples on both sides," Chen said. "Therefore, I propose that both sides should seriously consider the issue of arms control and take concrete actions to reduce tension and military threats."

China did not immediately comment on the address, which followed a parade with rifle-twirling soldiers in shiny chrome helmets, marching bands with long rows of tubas and children waving green flags to the tune of "Happy Birthday."

Chen's speech was praised by the United States, Taiwan's most important friend and likely ally in a war. "We welcome the constructive message conveyed in President Chen's speech, which we believe offers some creative ideas for reducing tensions and resuming the cross-Straits dialogue," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Darla Jordan said.

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Thousands join funeral of slain Islamic cleric

BY ZARAR KHAN

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Police fired tear gas and shots in the air to disperse angry Sunni Muslims on Sunday after thousands of mourners joined the funeral of a prominent pro-Taliban cleric gunned down on a busy Karachi street.

Mufti Jamil and an associate, Nazir Ahmed Taunsvi, were killed by unidentified gunmen as they drove through the center of the southern Pakistani city late Saturday, triggering riots by followers.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion was likely to fall on minority Shiite militants — amid fears of escalating sectarian violence in Pakistan following two bombings this month that killed more than 70 people.

Some 10,000 mourners gathered at a downtown Islamic seminary where funeral prayers for Jamil were held Sunday amid tight security.

Most mourners then marched

with the casket across the city to the burial site, but 300 or 400 people stayed outside the seminary and confronted police, throwing stones and shouting slogans against Shiites and President Gen. Pervez Musharraf — unpopular for his support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Police fired tear gas and two or three shots in the air, and the crowd dispersed.

The body of Taunsvi was to be buried in his hometown in eastern Punjab province.

Pakistan has a history of sectarian violence. While most Sunnis and minority Shiites live peacefully together, militants from both sects stage attacks that risk provoking clashes between the two communities.

In May, the slaying of another Sunni cleric and two bombings of Shiite mosques triggered major riots in Karachi — Pakistan's largest city and a hotbed of Islamic militancy.

Saturday's killing prompted unrest by hundreds of Sunnis, who blocked streets with burning tires and set four vehicles alight.

Rauf Siddiqi, home minister of

Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital, said police were questioning witnesses for clues about the killers of Jamil and Taunsvi and would draw sketches of the suspects.

Farid Baloch, a witness, said two men on a motorcycle opened fire on a van the two clerics were traveling in, and fled.

Jamil was known as a pro-Taliban scholar. He was part of a delegation that traveled to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in America to try to persuade Taliban leaders to hand over Osama bin Laden.

Meanwhile, an intelligence official said Sunday more than 125 people with links to outlawed extremist groups were detained for questioning over the weekend in connection with the two bombings this month in Punjab province.

They were picked up in raids on homes, mosques and Islamic seminaries in cities including Multan, Jhang, Lahore and Rawalpindi, the official, based in Multan, said on condition of anonymity. All the detainees were Pakistanis but none of them were senior militant leaders.



AP

People carry the body of slain Sunni Muslim cleric Mufti Jamil during his funeral in Karachi, Pakistan, on Sunday. Jamil and an associate, Nazir Ahmed Taunsvi, were traveling in a van when attackers sprayed them with bullets in the center of Karachi late Saturday.

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Panel will probe Afghan election

BY DANIEL COONEY
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An independent commission will probe claims by all 15 challengers to interim leader Hamid Karzai that Afghanistan's first direct presidential election was marred by incompetence and fraud, a top official said Sunday.

The move to head off the attack on the vote's legitimacy came as workers began the long process of collecting ballots from Saturday's historic election, in which Karzai was a heavy favorite.

Counting was to start Monday and was expected to take two to three weeks.

A day after the challengers announced they would boycott the election's outcome, two backed saying they wanted a commission to rule on whether the voting was fair and indicating they would accept its decision.

A few hours later, their demands appeared to have been met.

"There is going to be an independent commission made to investigate it," said electoral director Farooq Wardak. "There could be mistakes; we are just human beings. My colleagues might have made a mistake."

There was no immediate reaction from the challengers, but U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and other officials were reportedly meeting behind closed doors with many of the candidates.

What was supposed to be a historic day in this war-ravaged nation turned sour hours after voting started when the 15 accused the government and the United

Nations of fraud and incompetence over faulty ink used to mark people's thumbs to prevent multiple voting.

The complaint by the 15 drew criticism from international electoral observers.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said Sunday the demand to nullify the poll was unjustified. The U.S. International Republican Institute called the ballot "a triumph" and accused the challengers of trying to make up excuses for why they were likely to lose.

Electoral officials said turnout looked extremely high — a victory in itself in a nation with no experience at direct elections.

On Sunday, ballots were being carried to eight centers around the country, where they were being readied for counting. Tabulation was not expected to start until Monday.

Very early results could emerge a day or so later. But electoral spokesman Aykut Tassel added, "I don't think we will see a trend as to who is leading for about a week." He said final results could take until Oct. 30.

At a counting center on Kabul's outskirts, sealed bags of votes were brought in from surrounding areas and were being sorted by dozens of workers.

In Mazar-e-Sharif, election officials said they had not received ballots that were supposed to be flowing in from five northern provinces. They said it could take until Tuesday or Wednesday for ballots to arrive from remote villages.

Associated Press reporters Stephen Graham in Kandahar, Brad Herman in Mazar-e-Sharif and Amir Shah and Paul Haven in Kabul contributed to this report.



On Sunday, Afghanistan's first direct presidential election was a victory for the whole nation, despite controversy over the vote's legitimacy, interim President Hamid Karzai said Sunday.

World leaders welcome vote

BY AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — World leaders greeted the vote by millions of Afghans to elect a president as a great step for democracy, but some voiced caution Sunday over the boycott of the result by opponents of the heavy favorite, interim leader Hamid Karzai.

"I think the elections will augur well for Afghanistan," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of neighboring Pakistan said during a news conference in Islamabad. "We think President Karzai will be an element of stability for the country."

Aziz appeared with visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose country has been a major contributor to

NATO peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan.

Schroeder also praised the election.

"The peaceful completion and high voter turnout in the presidential election are grounds for optimism, despite the known problems," he said, adding that Afghanistan is only beginning "a surely long path to democracy."

Still, the boycott was an embarrassment and threatened to undercut the legitimacy of the vote, though an official count is weeks away.

Karzai's opponents claimed that a foul-up in inking voters' thumbs to ensure they cast only one ballot had opened the way to fraud.

"It's unfortunate for the Afghans that the elections have been marred because of all sorts of problems," said Prime Minister

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia, chairman of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference. "I'm sorry for them for what has happened."

"We can say that the first-ever presidential election in Afghanistan was carried out successfully in the unstable situation there," said Riza Syichbudi, a political analyst in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country which held its own first direct presidential vote last month.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw promised Saturday that Britain would continue to support the rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

"We must of course wait for the electoral process to run its full course before the authorities can confirm the legitimacy of the contest and announce a winner," Straw said.

Taliban unable to disrupt balloting

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Taliban rebels had vowed to turn Afghanistan's historic presidential vote into a day of bloodshed.

But other than a clash that left many of their own men dead and a smattering of small-scale attacks, the threat never materialized — fueling speculation that the insurgents might be a spent force.

Holdouts of the Islamic regime ousted by a U.S.-led coalition in 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden may have held back during Saturday's closely guarded presidential election, hoping to strike at a later date.

But after months of what proved to be empty threats, military commanders and ordinary Afghans said they were convinced that the insurgency had suffered a serious setback.

"Yesterday was a big defeat for the Taliban and a huge defeat for al-Qaida," Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top American commander in Afghanistan, told The Associated Press. "It shows that the political process is overwhelming any influence they may have."

At least a dozen election workers and scores of Afghan security forces died in the run-up to the election, which Taliban militants had threatened to attack as part of their campaign to drive out foreign troops and topple U.S.-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai.

The violence curtailed voter registration in the south and east of the country, meaning some people in the remote, conservative regions where the Taliban still enjoys support were left out.

Fear may have stifled turnout in those regions. Still, officials said polling in only one district across the south was abandoned Saturday because of violence — the notorious Daychangan area of Zabul province where militants clashed with Afghan troops.

Afghan officials said some 100,000 security forces — including about 27,000 foreign soldiers, most of them Americans — were involved in the operation to secure the elections.

Some clashes with militants in Uruzgan province, prompting American airstrikes that Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan said left 25 militants and one civilian dead.

The show of force across the country may have dissuaded many from attempting a spectacular or coordinated attacks that could have derailed the vote.

It remained unclear whether a suspected truck bomb intercepted near Kandahar city on Friday contained anything more sinister than fuel.

But Abdul Hakim Latifi, a spokesman for the Taliban who last week was warning Afghans they would be attacked if they cast ballots, claimed Sunday the militia held back because "innocent civilians had been forced to go and vote."

The Taliban will continue their holy war and their morale is high. Latifi said that on a telephone call from an undisclosed location, "Infidels are imposing this government on the Afghan people."

American commanders are predicting that Taliban fighters will be more likely to attack across the border in the territory of their former backer, Pakistan, will more readily embrace a long-standing offer of amnesty from Karzai after a successful election.

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A clearer picture of militants

Saudis portray rebels as on the run, declining in quality, unknowledgeable

BY DONNA ABU-NASR

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — They rent cars and houses using stolen IDs. They disguise themselves as women or as hip young men.

The money they raise for Iraqi prisoners in U.S. jails funds terror operations.

This, Saudi officials say, is the kind of information they're getting from scores of Saudi militants arrested in an aggressive government campaign. Two suspects have appeared on television to talk about life underground, telling of wounded comrades who died from lack of medical care, some supposedly devoted activists who know little of Islam and others who consider all Saudis in uniform to be infidels.

Such information has enabled the kingdom to strike at the root of al-Qaida's Saudi infrastructure, kill or capture several of its leaders, and publicly portray it in a humiliating light.

But no one is willing to declare the network dead or paralyzed, and foreigners know the successes do not mean they should let their guard down.

"It's not in our security interest to assume they cannot carry out a large operation," said Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, the Interior Ministry spokesman. "If we assume they can't, it would have an adverse effect on our alertness and level of preparedness to confront them."

In confessions on the government's Channel 1 television, suspects Khalid al-Farraj and Abdul Rahman al-Rashoud said most of



A Saudi man watches from afar the shootout between police and terrorists inside the Oasis compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, on May 30, Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, the Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman, says the picture of operations in the kingdom is clearer but "it's not in our security interest to assume they cannot carry out a large operation."

the operatives in Saudi Arabia are ignorant, especially in religious matters. They said they raise funds by telling donors the money will go toward helping the religious poor and Iraqis in U.S. detention.

Al-Farraj was arrested in January after a raid on his Riyadh house that left six security agents dead. Al-Rashoud is believed to be related to Abdullahi Mohammed Rashid al-Rashoud, no. 24 on the Saudi wanted list. "It's not clear when he was arrested."

"Young ones were recruited because they do not have sufficient knowledge of the religion or a wise mind that can tell right from

wrong," al-Rashoud said on the program. Al-Farraj said cell leaders intimidated the recruits by telling them there was no way out of the group.

Nawaf Obaid, head of the Saudi National Security Assessment Project, a nongovernment research institute, said the quality of recruits is down.

While the first tier mostly trained in camps in Afghanistan and could have met bin Laden in person, the new ones don't have the know-how to structure a cell, find a safe house or rig a car with explosives, Obaid, who is close to the government, said.

The authorities have "put them on the run," said Obaid.

Pakistani officials still negotiating to free 2 Chinese

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's interior minister said negotiators were trying Sunday to release two Chinese engineers abducted in a tense border region, hours after the pair had been reported released.

The engineers, along with a Pakistani security guard and a driver, were ambushed Saturday morning as they traveled to the construction site of a dam in South Waziristan — a remote tribal region where al-Qaida-linked militants are active.

On Sunday, police and a Chinese Embassy official said that after negotiations, the engineers were safe as they had been handed over by the kidnappers to tribal elders, and were expected to be freed soon.

But a senior intelligence official based in Islamabad said on condition of anonymity the Chinese were being held by al-Qaida-linked militants who were threatening to kill them unless authorities released militants held by Pakistani security forces.

"They are blackmailing the

government to get their people released, including some foreigners," he said.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao claimed the two Chinese were under the protection of a local tribe. He said a tribal council was negotiating with their kidnappers over demands for setting them free.

"The jirga (council) we have sent there are holding talks with them. Whatever their demands are will come forward later and then we will take this process ahead peacefully," he said. "But I am satisfied that they are safe."

He said two of the kidnappers were local tribesmen and two were foreigners, although their nationality was unclear.

Pakistan has launched a series of military operations this year to flush out militants from Waziristan, including Central Asians, Arabs and Afghans, killing scores of fighters and capturing others.

The two engineers are among between 70 and 80 Chinese working for a Chinese state construction company on the Gomal Zam dam, a \$303 million project to generate electricity and store water. The dam lies about 210 miles west of Islamabad.

African monitors send a message in Darfur: The world is watching

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

MISTIRIA, Sudan — Patrolling a war zone the size of Texas with just 12 two-man crews, Maj. Panduleni Martin's mission this day takes him to Mistiria, the stronghold of Darfur's feared Arab militia, for banter with a suspected Janjaweed field commander.

Through small talk with government forces and their rebel rivals, and keeping tabs on more than 1 million war-displaced civilians, Martin and the rest of the African Union monitoring crew hope to send all sides in Darfur a message: The world is watching.

To an extent, it's working, the military monitors armed forces west Sudan from armed forces across Africa say.

"We know we are foreign eyes when we go there," Cmdr. Seth Appiah-Mensah, an African Union officer from Ghana, says of a Janjaweed base in Mistiria. "And, they don't like foreign eyes," he adds, tapping his own.

Darfur's conflict is blamed for more than 50,000 deaths and has driven 1.4 million mostly

non-Arab civilians from their homes in the past 20 months. The bloodletting was allegedly carried out by government-backed militiamen known as the Janjaweed, and conflict-related disease that followed killed many.

The unarmed African Union military observers, protected by roughly 300 African Union troops, monitor a regularly violated April cease-fire.

The African Union force is to grow to 3,500 in coming weeks, gaining increased U.S. funding and logistical support from private military contractors PAE Group and Dyncorp. Sudan's government reluctantly agreed to the bolstered force but has resisted international prodding to shift AU duties from monitoring to peacekeeping.

Large-scale attacks on civilians have eased in recent weeks under international scrutiny. Some of the Arab tribal militia fighters known as Janjaweed — a traditionally insulting term they do not use for themselves — have pulled back to bases like the one in Mistiria, in north Darfur.

Equipment shortages have



African Union cease-fire monitors Maj. Panduleni Martin from Zambia, left, and Lt. Col. Abu Asala El Majzoh from the Sudanese government, center, speak to Bugul Abdullahi Zachariah, right, who is from an Arab-African tribe, last week in North Darfur, Sudan. African Union monitors are patrolling Darfur, where ethnic conflicts are blamed for more than 50,000 deaths and for driving 1.4 million from their homes.

plagued the AU mission, blocking most of the 400-plus monitors and protection troops from even starting their work.

While the United Nations prods Europe and the United States for promised support, AU monitors complain of shortages even of the arm bands that show them to be AU observers.

Officially, the AU mission has six African and six European military members — one adviser each for each of the 12 AU teams.

Americans are especially resentful among the Sudanese military and allied militia, the AU officers say — the United States has led in terms of Darfur's conflict genocide and pushing for sanctions.

With the upcoming strengthening of the AU force to 3,500, the African officers will be able to place permanent teams in each hot spot, Maj. Johan Odenaal of South Africa says.

But absent a change in mandate to peacekeeping from monitoring, their role will limit them to just that: watching.

Tour operator loses family in crash

15 victims of Ark. bus wreck include man's wife, niece, brother, stepson

The Associated Press

MARION, Ark. — The lone bus belonging to a mom-and-pop tour operator careened off an interstate and overturned early Saturday, killing 15 Chicago-area travelers on their way to a Mississippi casino. Witnesses told police the bus, which carried family and friends of the tour company owner, was drifting.

The bus was about 30 miles before its final destination in Tunica, Miss., when the crash happened about 5 a.m. on Interstate 55 near northeastern Arkansas, near Memphis, Tenn.

Thirty-one people were aboard, and the remaining 16 passengers all were injured, many critically. Some of the dead were found crushed beneath the bus after wrecker crews pulled it upright, state police spokesman Bill Sadler said.

Among the dead was the man driving the bus's brother, who had been driving. The owner's wife, stepson and niece also died. The driver, Herbert Walters, was believed to be in his 60s.

Witnesses told police the bus drifted off the road near a point where the interstate veers to take travelers into Memphis.

The bus, "just kind of faded over there," said Cpl. Mickey Strayhorn of the Arkansas State Police. "There was not really any



This is an aerial view of an overturned tour bus Saturday after it crashed off Interstate 55 near Marion, Ark. The bus was carrying 31 people to a Mississippi casino; fifteen of them were killed.

erratic driving before this occurred."

A light mist was falling at the time of the crash, but visibility did not appear to be significantly limited, police said.

The impact tore off a section of the bus' roof, and emergency workers had to shear off the rest of the top to reach a trapped passenger.

Tracks in the grass showed the bus went straight rather than around the curve, then hit a ditch and flipped over. There were no skid marks.

"They had to cut it [the roof] free from the bus, but it was peeled off more or less," Strayhorn said.

Other victims, thrown from the bus, were scattered among grass and weeds at an interstate exchange, along with popped-open suitcases and other belongings.

Sgt. David Moore, describing the force of the impact, said it would be "similar to an explosion. There were people everywhere."

Assistant Fire Chief John Burns of West Memphis said when he and a crew of firefighters arrived at the scene, "there was nobody walking around — everybody was laying down."

"It wasn't the scene where you see everybody screaming and crying for help," Burns said.

State police had a partial list of

passengers and were going through debris to identify the others.

Sadler said 14 people died at the scene. Hospitals reported receiving a total of 17 people, including one who later died.

Sandy Snell, spokeswoman for The Medical Center at Memphis, said that hospital was treating eight victims, including three in very critical condition, three in critical condition, and two with serious injuries.

Witnesses and survivors told police the trip was uneventful, then "the next thing we knew, we were off the road," Sadler said.

The bus went down a slight incline and flipped as it cut through

At least 15 die in tour bus crash

A bus carrying Chicago-area tourists to a Mississippi casino crashed and overturned outside Marion, Ark. around 5 a.m. Saturday killing about half of the people onboard.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

a ditch, stopping about 100 yards from the highway.

Rosevelt Walters, who operated Walters Charter and Tours of Chicago, said his wife was aboard the bus because she had organized the trip for a group of friends, retirees and teachers. He said his brother, Herbert Walters, was driving.

Within hours of learning about the crash, Walters also learned that his wife and brother had been killed.

"This thing that happened, nobody has an answer for. All we can do is direct them to God," said the Rev. Curtis Reed, who was serving as a family spokesman.

Police cautioned that investigators may not know what happened for weeks. "They'll be so many things they'll need to look at," Sadler said.

New murder trial begins for Vegas pair

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Even in this city of sin, the tawdry trial of a former stripper and her secret lover accused of murdering a former casino executive for a treasure of buried silver was a decade distraction until guilty ver-

dicts brought the case to a close in May 2000.

Now the sensational case of sex, lies and murder is back as a new trial starts Monday, set in motion by a Nevada Supreme Court decision that overturned the convictions of Sandy Murphy and former contractor Rick Tabish in the death of Ted Binion, a

mob-connected heroin addict and millionaire.

"When you look at the picture of the gold-digger Sandy Murphy and the guy-on-the-make Rick Tabish... it's a pretty unseemly group," said John L. Smith, author and Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist who covered the first trial. "It's almost like a Vegas cartoon."

Binion's family owned the famed downtown Binion's Horseshoe Hotel & Casino, known for expensive steak dinners and high-stakes gambling. But he lost his gaming license over allegations of drug use and ties to a mob figure.

He fell for the much-younger Murphy when he spotted her at a local strip club. She lived with him until September 1998, when they were called to Binion's Las Vegas home and found the 55-year-old's body next to a bottle of antidepressants. An autopsy showed he had lethal levels of Xanax and heroin in his system.

Prosecutors say the motive was a piece of Binion's \$55 million estate and a cache of more than \$5 million in silver bars and coins that Binion had buried in an underground desert vault in Pahrump, 55 miles west of Las Vegas. Tabish built the vault for Binion.

The jury convicted the pair, but the Nevada Supreme Court ruled in July that the judge made a mistake in not forcing prosecutors to try an extortion case against Tabish separately.

Pending execution brings juvenile issue before Court

BY JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Eleven years later, the chilling imagery of her sister's murder still makes Pertie Mitchell shiver.

During a burglary, two teens stretched duct tape across Shirley Crook's mouth and eyes, then muscled her into her van. An hour later, the hogtied woman was dumped off into the murky Meramec River.

"Bubble, bubble," witnesses later said they heard Christopher Simmons snicker as the woman's body sank.

"It makes your hands sweat, your stomach sick," Mitchell said, hoping for the day that Simmons is put to death. "I will be there."

"I will watch him die." The execution is not certain, though. Using the Simmons case, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday on whether it is constitutional to execute killers who were juveniles when the crimes were committed.

The court agreed to hear the case after the Missouri Supreme Court last year struck down executions of juveniles and re-sentenced Simmons, now 28, in place of him, deciding that such execu-

tions violate "evolving standards of decency."

Nineteen states allow executions of killers who were 16 or 17 at the time of the crime. Since the 1976 reinstatement of the death penalty, 22 people — 13 of them in Texas — have been executed for crimes committed as 16- or 17-year-olds.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1988 barred the death penalty for those 15 and younger.

Simmons' advocates have said that executing people

who kill as juveniles would be just as wrong as putting to death the mentally challenged, a practice outlawed by the Supreme Court in 2002.

People less than 18 years old, they argue, don't have fully developed brains and are incapable of making rational decisions.

"You know how many people get married or join the service when they're 17 or 18 years old?" said Mitchell, 66. "This man has nothing to justify what he did."

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語訳あります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese
REACHING THE MILITARY & JAPAN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Yokota Christian Academy	M-F
Sunday	
Early Service	0830
Sunday School	1000
Morning Service	1100
Evening Service	1800
Monday	
Faith Bible Institute	1830
Tuesday	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830
Wednesday	
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900
Patch & Pee Wee Clubs	1900

- Friday**
- Awana Club 1900
- Monthly**
- Mens Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat
- Ladies Meeting 1st Sat
- ★ Festival Service 27 Oct ~ 2 Nov**
- ★ Fall Festival 31 Oct for YBC members and their guests**

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At Pussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

FACES

Stella McCartney expecting child

Fashion designer Stella McCartney, daughter of former Beatle Paul McCartney and the late Linda McCartney, has announced that she is expecting her first child.

McCartney made the announcement Thursday at the launch of her new spring/summer collection during Paris Fashion Week. A spokesman for the designer confirmed she was 3½ months pregnant.

McCartney, 33, married former publisher Alasdair Willis in August 2003.

The baby will be the third grandchild for the former Beatle. His eldest daughter, Mary, has two sons. His current wife, Heather Mills McCartney, gave birth to a daughter, Beatrice, last year.

Tiger Woods finally confirms nuptials

Tiger Woods finally confirmed Friday what everyone's known for the last three days: He married Swedish model Elin Nordegren in Barbados.

"There certainly has been a lot of speculation about my personal life, which is why Elin and I wanted to confirm that we got married on Tuesday," Woods said on his Web site. "Elin and I celebrated this wonderful occasion with our close friends and family, and we look forward to starting our new life together."

Woods canceled an appearance Sunday in Orlando, Fla., where he was to meet with winners of the Buick Scramble, the world's largest amateur golf event.

Combs to hold auditions for new show

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs is on the prowl for some ladies — who can sing and dance.

On Thursday, he announced dates for an open-call audition for his new MTV series, "Making the Band 3," a reality show about Combs producing an all-girl pop group.

"I want a group of women that can sing like Christina Aguilera and dance like Usher," Combs said.

"I'm looking to create an international supergroup to follow in the footsteps of the Supremes and Destiny's Child."

Combs hosted "Making the Band 2" for three seasons in which he formed a hip-hop group, Da Band, before disbanding them.

Love in court to set new date

A low-key Courtney Love made a brief court appearance and was told to return Oct. 27 for a preliminary hearing to determine if she stands trial for allegedly attacking a woman with a liquor bottle.

Love softly answered "yes" Thursday when asked if she agreed to the next court date.

Love has pleaded not guilty to the felony assault charge and is free on \$150,000 bail. She allegedly attacked the woman at an ex-boyfriend's home in April.



Love

Festival closes season with a profit

The Spoleto Festival USA finished its 2004 season in the black for the ninth-straight season, festival managing director Nigel Redden said.

The Charleston, S.C., festival closed its books with a \$23.85 surplus in its \$6.8 million budget.

Redden had said earlier the festival was taking a risk by presenting the Chinese opera "The Peony Pavilion" in six three-hour segments.

"Luckily, 'The Peony Pavilion' was well-received as was the appearance of Mikhail Baryshnikov," Redden said.

Baryshnikov appeared in the play "The Doctor and the Patient," a new work by Reno Gabriadze.

The festival also set a new box-office record, selling \$2.5 million worth of tickets, about \$21,000 more than in 2003, Redden said. There were a record 141 events during the 2004 festival, during which nearly 70,000 tickets were sold.

Spoleto Festival USA was founded in 1977 as the American counterpart to a festival held annually in Spoleto, Italy. It fills Charleston's theaters, churches and outdoor spaces with performances of opera, theater, dance and music, as well as the visual arts.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



KATHERINE FREY/The Washington Post

Director Edgar Wright is flanked by Simon Pegg, left, and Nick Frost, who star in "Shaun of the Dead," a film that celebrates zombie movies and, perhaps even more, British pub life. The hit British film is now playing in U.S. theaters.

Zombies *with a twist of* Monty Python

'Shaun of the Dead' turns horror into parody

BY TERRY LAWSON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — In "Shaun of the Dead," the hit British zombie comedy that opened stateside last month, Nick Frost plays Ed, a slacker with no self-censoring mechanism. He blurts out whatever he thinks without any provocation.

So it's not much of a surprise how he responded when, asked what he and his mates — costar Simon Pegg, who co-wrote the script and plays the title character, and director and co-writer Edgar Wright — thought of Birmingham.

"It's a bit like 'Stepford Wives,' innit?" Frost says.

"Everything was a wee bit too perfect." "Well, all we really saw was the theater and the hotel," says Pegg, who as Ed's roommate in "Shaun of the Dead" spends half the movie apologizing for him. "I'm sure an initial observation doesn't tell the whole story."

The same might be said of "Shaun of the Dead," a parody of the classic zombie movie "Dawn of the Dead," which on one level is itself a parody of consumer culture.

Coming after the zombie film "28 Days Later" and the remake of George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead," "Shaun" could be perceived as a cash-in instead of what Britain's Uncut magazine called "the funniest British comedy since the Pythons packed it in."

"Yeah, we did really well with it back home," Frost says. "We even beat Jesus on Easter Sunday."

(What Frost means to say is that it fared better on Easter weekend than Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the

Christ.") Though Frost, Pegg and Wright are happy to acknowledge that their movie was influenced by Monty Python's movie parodies, as well as a lot of English TV shows (including "The Office," which has two cast members in "Shaun"), it was not a byproduct of the surprise success of "28 Days Later."

"We had finished the script and were ready to shoot long before we had heard of that movie," Pegg says. "Our financing fell through, so it took awhile to get that back together, and when we heard about '28 Days' our hearts sort of sank. But as it turned out, it may have ended up making people more receptive to the idea."

"Yeah," Frost says. "Zombies are in again."

Wright's point of view is this: "Shaun of the Dead" may feature a bit of flesh eating and brain splattering — and it respects zombie lore in insisting they can only be eradicated with a bullet to the head — but at its heart, the movie is an old-fashioned romantic comedy.

"A bit like 'Sleepless in Seattle,' really," says Pegg, straight-faced.

"More 'Notting Hill,' since it's British, only with more viscera," Frost says.

Shaun is a 29-year-old who lives with a more motivated and uptight roommate David, while Ed is essentially a squatter, avoiding rent and his portion of the bills, much to David's disgust. He wants Shaun to give him the boot.

But it's Shaun who gets the boot from girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield). She's decided that both the relationship and Shaun are going nowhere save the local pub, where they spend

most of their time — with Ed. Shaun is so upset with this he fails to notice that a zombie plague has infected London, and that rotting, hungry and resurrected corpses are staggering about on his block. (Anything that resembles news on the telly gets snuffed right over, of course.)

When reality finally invades his back yard, however, Shaun rises to the occasion, using the pub as HQ as he plots a way to rescue Liz and his dear old Mum (Penelope Wilton).

"The trick was to maintain a real zombie threat with having a laugh at what you Yanks call 'English reserve,' but which is actually more self-absorption," Pegg says. "I mean, we all love the original 'Dawn of the Dead,' and that's satire, but it's also terribly scary."

Pegg and Wright made a list of bites that could not be violated, headed by the dictate that the zombies were not in on the joke. "They have zero sense of humor," Wright says. "They're dead, after all, that would take the fun out of it, I'd think."

When "Shaun" wrapped, Frost surprised himself by winning a role in Woody Allen's upcoming and as-yet-untitled comedy.

In the wake of the British success of "Shaun," the trio is also planning to regroup for another comedy, which movie-fanatic Wright says will be a send-up of cop dramas, set in a rural England with pagan undertones, a la the cult hit "The Wicker Man." To prepare, Wright is forcing Pegg and Frost to endure nightly DVD screenings of films he thinks will be helpful, including the original "Walking Tall."

"Bloody awful, that movie," Pegg says.

"Yeah," Wright adds, "we all loved it."

TUESDAY EVENING / OCTOBER 12, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	#ESPNes	Pacific Report	#NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Green Bay Packers. From Lambeau Field in Green Bay, WI. (Live) (CC)						#ESPNes	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	
7	AFN-Alt	(8:30) Guiding Light (CC)	General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				Zoboomafo (EI) (CC) (DVS)	Animalinacs	Braceface "The Doctor Is In" (CC) (EI)	Teen Kids In (CC) (EI)
8	NEWS	CHN Daybreak		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)				Headline News	Channel One	The Early Show (CC)	
9	SORTS	#Fishing Fly Tour - Alchatahla Basin.		#SportsCenter		#Paradon the Inter-ruption		#NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series - Banquet 400. From Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan. (Taped)					
10	SPEC	The Simpsons Home Page	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray reports to his wife. (CC)	Ed "Best Wishes" Ed's brother, Lloyd, returns to Shadybrook in need of help. (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation New DNA evidence forces Catherine to re-open an old case. (CC)	Biography "Emel Lagaase: Bamf" Profile of chef Emel Lagaase, owner of restaurants. (CC)	A troubled young woman checks into a psychiatric hospital. (CC)	Friends Judy finds a place of his own. (CC)	Seinfeld Jerry appears on a TV pledge drive. (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)	
11	AFN-Alt	AFN-World	Rugrats (CC)	The Proud Family Amanda	Everwood "The Doctor Is In" (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	The Cosby Show		Home Improvement.	Touchy by an Angel (CC)		
12	TMC	(35) "Sweet Home" (1994) Drama. Michael Boatman, Lee Pelly, Liza Edd. A police noise nuisance latently implicates a murder suspect. PG-13 (CC)		"The O'Connells" (1999) Drama. William B. Davis, Angela Jolie, Cheyenne Chase. (CC)		"The Sum of All Fears" (2002). Suspense. Ben Affleck, Morgan Freeman, James Cromwell. Terrorists plot to detonate a nuclear bomb in the U.S. PG-13 (CC)				(35) "Showgirls" (1996). Drama. Elizabeth Berkley, Lily MacLachlan, Gina Gershon. An ambitious dancer makes a bid for Las Vegas success. R (CC)			
13	PBS	Clifford the Big Red Dog "Close Friends" (EI)	Dragon Tales (Z)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)		Now "Origins: Earth Is Born: How Life Began" The formation of continental crust and the precipitation of water. (N) (CC) (DVS)				*** "Lost Boys of Sudan" (2003). Documentary. Premises. Sudanese refugees try to make new lives in the U.S. (CC)		Visions: Latino Art and Culture (CC)	
14	SHOW	(15) "The Teenage" (1988) Teen. Dan Donovan. Two teenagers are hitched to a love. (CC)		"Equilibrium" (2002). Science Fiction. A futuristic lawman rebels against the law. (CC)		Christian Bale, Emily Watson, Type O Negative. R (CC)				*** "The Hunter" (2003). Suspense. Tom Jones, Benicio Del Toro, Connie Nielsen. A retired combat tracker tracks a killer in Oregon. R (CC)	(35) Showtime Les Jones stars.	American Candidate	
15	A&E	20/20 "Confidential" Though more than half the people were there, none saw who shot the town bully. (CC)		American Justice "Thill Killers" Photographs implicate a couple. (CC)		Biography "Charles Whitman" Sniper slays 14 people and wounds 31 at the University of Texas. (N) (CC)				Cold Case Files "The Case of a Killing" helps investigators identify a murder victim. (CC)	Dog the Bounty Hunter "Dog the Comp-tetition" (CC)	Growing Up Gotti Frank's goes on air. (CC)	Airline Passenger pulled from a flight. (CC)
16	DISC	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		High Tech Toys	Future Tense	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
17	TFC	(15) OK, Fine. Whitealver		(45) Pilot		Good Morning Kids (In Tagalog)				(15) Kumitang Kabayan	(40) Masayang Tanghal Bayan	(45) SOC Reload	(16) Sarah... Teen Princess
18	CNN-I	#Larry King Live		CNN World Sport		Business International				Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World Sport	Biz Asia
19	GOLF	#PGA Golf Nationwide Tour - Glia River Classic - Third Round. From Chandler, Ariz.				#The King's Army	#Golf Channel America	#Golf Central		#Golf Channel America	#Golf Central	#Golf With Style	#Playing Lessons From the Pros
20	TLC	Clean Sweep Bold colors and inventive lighting create a dreamlike and elaborate world. (CC)		In a Fix "Teenager's Bedroom" Girl's bedroom still with teenage room. Hurricane Andrew 10 years later. (CC)		Mega Machines "Mega Cutters" Cutting machines. (CC)		Overhaul "Dude, Where's My Sky" (CC)		Rides "Skir" (N) (CC)		Mega Machines "Mega Cutters" Cutting machines. (CC)	
21	TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Courage the Cowardly Dog		Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Looney Tunes		I Am Weasel	What a Cartoon Show	Scoby-Doo, Where Are You?	
22	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Helping the U.S. Army remove venomous snakes from a training course. (CC)		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)		Mad TV Snoot Dogs: The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		South Park The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		Chappelle's Show "The Black Rock Project" game. (CC)		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)	Tough Crowd (N) (CC)
23	COM	Trading Happy TV "Treasures" (CC)	Reno 911! Jailbird Rides a horse. (CC)	The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)		Mad TV Snoot Dogs: The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		South Park The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		Chappelle's Show "The Black Rock Project" game. (CC)		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)	Tough Crowd (N) (CC)
24	NGC-A	Treasures (CC)	Reno 911! Jailbird Rides a horse. (CC)	The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)		Mad TV Snoot Dogs: The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		South Park The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		Chappelle's Show "The Black Rock Project" game. (CC)		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)	Tough Crowd (N) (CC)
25	SPIKE	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)	
26	FOX	Fame "Lars' Girl" Larks his girlfriend from an interview in New York.		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)		Mad TV Snoot Dogs: The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		South Park The Bishop, black and white. (CC)		Chappelle's Show "The Black Rock Project" game. (CC)		The Daily Show "Sinkers" The top 10 smallest animals in the world. (CC)	Tough Crowd (N) (CC)
27	BET	16 & Punk: BET's Top 10 Live		BET.com Countdown		BET.com Countdown		BET.com Countdown		BET.com Countdown		BET.com Countdown	
28	COURT	NYPD Blue "Sermonal Thinking" Meek's new strategy prompts a confession to confess to a murder. (CC)		Cops A K of Offroad's prospect. (CC)		Cops A K of Offroad's prospect. (CC)		Cops A K of Offroad's prospect. (CC)		Cops A K of Offroad's prospect. (CC)		Cops A K of Offroad's prospect. (CC)	
29	STR-ld	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Star News Focus Asia		Just Shoot Me (CC)		John Doe (CC)		The Apprentice (CC)	UC Undercover (CC)	Just Shoot Me (CC)	John Doe (CC)
30	LIFE	The Golden Girls Blanche is sworn to secrecy. (CC)	The Golden Girls Blanche is sworn to secrecy. (CC)	A Wing and a Prayer" (1998). Suspense. Claudia Christian, Jeff Vagher, Jessica Teck. An air traffic controller's spouse on a crippled plane. (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)	
31	ABC-FM	Full House Michelle and Todd become couple. (CC)	Full House Michelle and Todd become couple. (CC)	7th Heaven "That Touch of Brink" Mike Brink is entitled to help raise his son. (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for You" (CC)	
32	HIST	Nazi POWs in America Hundreds of thousands of Hitler's soldiers are held in prison camps in America. (CC)		Madam Marvels "Off Frightening" Fighting fire with fire. (CC)		Madam Marvels "Off Frightening" Fighting fire with fire. (CC)		Madam Marvels "Off Frightening" Fighting fire with fire. (CC)		Madam Marvel		Madam Marvel	
33	STR-W	(8:30) "The Kid Stars in the Picture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans Reunites his Hollywood career		(10) "Sweet Home Alabama" (2002). Comedy. Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas, Patrick Dempsey. A New York fashion designer has a secret in the South.		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)	
34	ADV 1	Nick's Qu'est: Sea Strategy Part 2		Budget Travel		Total Adventure "Kayaking Peru" (CC)		Total Adventure "Climbing Canada" (CC)		Deeper Blue: A Free-Diver's Story	#Surfer's Journal	Budget Travel	Total Adventure "Kayaking Peru" (CC)
35	MTV	Room Raiders	Room Raiders	Veronica Mars "Pilot" A gang at school targets Veronica Mars. (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)		The Real World "Philosophia" (CC)	
36	NICK	Rugrats/SpongeBob	Julie "The Wild Thornberrys"	Julie "CatDog/The Angry Beavers"	Julie "As Told By Ginger"	Scareday Camp Water balloon chat. (CC)	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	All That		Even Stevens (CC)	The Brothers Garcia (CC)	Figure It Out (CC)	Legends of the Hidden Temple

JAPAN TV

Afternoon
12:30 V.I.P. (12)
1:30 U.S. Movie (1951): A Streetcar Named Desire (2:00)(12)
5:50 News (6)
Evening
7:00 NHK News (1)
10:00 News (1)

JAPAN TV (BS11)

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Pavel Steidl (guitar)
Afternoon
2:40 Italian Movie (1972): Man of La Mancha
(2:10)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
7:55 U.S. Movie (1974): The Longest Yard
(2:05)
10:00 TV Series: The West Wing 3

1:00 U.S. Movie (1993): *Sleepless in Seattle*
(1:50)
3:00 U.S. Movie (2002): *Adaptation* (2:00)
5:30 Oswald No. 23 (r)
Evening
6:00 Hong Kong-U.S. Movie (2002): *So Close*
(2:00)
8:00 TV Series: *Third Watch*
9:00 TV Series: *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): *Just a Kiss* (1:35)
11:40 *The Beat* Live: Eminem

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Monday
8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice
Afternoon

12:00 The Osbournes
12:30 Making the Video: Usher
1:00 Classic
1:30 Top Choice
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
4:00 Top Choice Selection: Hip Hop, R&B Reggae
5:00 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 M Size Tuesday
7:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
9:00 Top Choice
9:30 M Size All Request
10:00 YAT!
11:00 VMA 2004 Cibs: Miami
11:30 Pure Music
12:00 Biography
12:30 Consensus: B-Dash
1:00 M Size Tuesday
2:00 M Size All Request
2:30 Classic
3:00 After Hours

Morning
6:00 World News
7:00 World News
8:00 World News
9:00 World News
11:00 Dr. Weiss: Child Raising
Afternoon

STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

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What most do is prostitution

With a shortage of bodies on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan the military is going to kick out Joe Snuffy for purchasing sex? Somehow I bet every soldier in Iraq is headed to the first brothel that they can find. "Buy sex, get out of Iraq now" — if that isn't the best recruiting slogan to retain troops in combat zones I don't know what is.

What's "immoral" to one man isn't to another. Prostitution is the world's oldest profession — yes it was around before the Department of Defense started sticking its moral nose into all of our lives, before the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stopped selling used adult magazines, before Uncle Sam told gay servicemenbers that their sexual preferences made them bad or suspect soldiers.

If a woman chooses to be a prostitute then more power to her. A woman has spent money on his girl or woman, so I guess every heterosexual guy is guilty of some fashion of supporting prostitution.

According to the Webster Collegiate dictionary, prostitution is the act or practice of engaging in promiscuous sex for money. (Give me a minute while I look up the word "promiscuous." OK, got it; it basically means having sex with more than one partner.) Guess most of us have been on our own lifelines, huh. So let me get this right — most of us have been or are promiscuous and money is exchanged in one form or another. So I guess that makes us all prostitutes, and now the DOD wants to put all of us out of business.

Be afraid, be very afraid.
Stephen O. Malone
 Kaiserslautern, Germany

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Reason behind UCMJ verbiage

I would like to correct inaccuracies in the Oct. 5 letter "More UCMJ info needed." As a senior parajump noncommissioned officer, I can assure you that Article 140, UCMJ is the last article in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not Article 134 as stated by the author. He would have been correct if he had stated that it was the last punitive article in the UCMJ.

Also, each punitive article lists the maximum authorized punishment for each specification changed under that article. The phrase "or as a court-martial may direct" is the legal verbiage necessary to authorize any lesser punishment.

The author states he is "pretty sure" that it takes a special court-martial to "award" a general court-martial. These two levels of courts-martial are separate and distinct. For those unfamiliar with courts-martial

there are three levels: summary court-martial being the lowest; special court-martial being the midlevel court at which a bad-conduct discharge may be adjudged, and general court-martial, the highest-level court that may impose the maximum punishment, authorized as stated above.

I can see the military going to the trouble if the acts bring discredit upon the service, or are contrary to good order and discipline.

There is one thing people seem to let slip by here: There is a reason for each article of the UCMJ. If there were no reason or need to add, change or remove any article, the smart guys with law degrees who advise Congress every year on modifying the UCMJ will submit no change.

Set the standard, and maintain that standard. If it is too high for some, then they should be removed so that those who can meet the standard will be better served.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerome D. Klein
 Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force
 Arabian Peninsula

Uniforms not real issue

I have read letters concerning uniforms in uniform, and I am appalled. Since when, in a combat zone, is uniform appearance one of the biggest issues? Even here in a remote relay station in Iraq, we get hammered about being in "proper" uniform. I remember hearing stories from my grandfather about fighting in World War I sometimes in his underwear, depending on the time of the attack.

Soldiers and civilians in this "combat zone" should be more thankful that they have someone — especially civilians — supporting them, rather than worrying about the condition of those people's uniforms. After all it is a soldier's responsibility to be here, not a civilian's. Most of them volunteered to come to support our troops and the civilians working and supporting us, whether in proper uniform or not.

Sgt. Barry Edwards
 Camp Bucca, Iraq

A Nobel laureate's ignoble detention

The Washington Post

Kenyan environmentalist and feminist Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, joins an eminent list of men and women who have campaigned tirelessly against odds and stood up courageously to cruel dictators. For some, winning the prize was affirmation of success already achieved; for others, the prize conveyed a kind of protection and provided a spur to the cause. But one woman on the list — one of the most courageous — remains a prisoner today.

At a time of celebration, Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma, 13 years after becoming a Nobel Peace laureate, very little to celebrate. Her continuing imprisonment should be taken as a rebuke by everyone in the "international community" who claims to care

about freedom, democracy and human rights.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of the hero of Burma's independence, is herself a reluctant heroine. She assumed the role of pro-democracy leader in 1988, when demonstrating students and others resisting Burma's dictatorship demanded it. In 1990, her party won four out of every five parliamentary seats in a national election, even though she was already under house arrest. But Burma's dictators never honored the people's wishes, and many leaders of the National League for Democracy remain in prison today. Many more have been tortured and killed, and Aung San Suu Kyi herself is under house arrest. ...

Directly responsible for this are the corrupt generals who rule her once-promising Southeast Asian nation with brutality and incompetence. But others share in the blame.

The United States has imposed sanctions, as called for by Burma's democrats, but their effectiveness is limited by Europe's commerce-motivated reluctance to follow suit.

The European Council, after a number of false starts, has threatened to take action this week. We'll see. Burma's neighbors believe that "engagement" would begin to civilize Burma's junta, but so far the only result of their policy has been to make them look weak. Meanwhile U.S. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's personal representative to Burma has failed to achieve anything, it's time for Mr. Annan to get more involved.

U.S. and British troubles in Iraq have shown the difficulty of imposing democratic through force, for which France and Germany claim vindication. But implicit in their opposition to the Iraq war was a belief that diplomacy, pressure and other means can succeed. Burma would be a good place for them to start proving that point.

Doonesbury



Golfing snake

HI KAHULUI — A 4-foot snake believed to be a ball python was captured on the golf course at Mahealani Resort on Maui, state wildlife officials said.

Deborah Ward, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the 8-pound snake was captured after a golf course pro-shop employee spotted it and called police, who notified wildlife officials.

It's unknown how the python snake arrived on Maui. Possessing a snake is illegal in Hawaii and punishable by fines of up to \$200,000 and up to three years in prison.

Ball pythons, which can grow up to six feet long, are common in the pet trade on the mainland. They are native to west-central and west Africa and feed on small mammals and birds.

Charge dismissed

CA LOS ANGELES — A man accused of murder for a fatal auto crash will not be retried on that charge because prosecutors failed to disclose that an expert witness made numerous errors at the police department crime lab, a judge ruled.

The judge said that prosecutors knew Jeff Lowe had incorrectly weighed narcotics in 27 cases but did not tell murder defendant Philip Ray's lawyer.

Rawl was charged in connection with a June 2002 crash that killed one of his passengers. He was convicted of vehicular manslaughter after driving under the influence, but juries in two trials both deadlocked on the murder charge.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Stephen A. Marcus let stand the convictions on the manslaughter and DUI counts and sentenced Rawl to eight years in prison.

New cannon uncovered

NC BEAUFORT — Underwater archaeologists have found another cannon from the wreckage of what they believe was the flagship of the notorious pirate Blackbeard.

Historical records indicate Blackbeard had 40 guns on the French frigate he captured in 1717 and renamed Queen Anne's Revenge. Since 1996, when the wreckage of the ship was discovered in Beaufort Inlet, divers have found 22 at the site.

"We're pretty positive that we have cannon number 23," said project archaeologist Chris Southery.

It is a large cannon that probably shot a 6-pound or 8-pound ball, Southery said. Divers uncovered the cannon while excavating an area of the shipwreck's northwest side where they had not previously dug.

Pesticides not culprit

NY STONY BROOK — Researchers have concluded that pesticides used to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus were not a major factor in the 1999 lobster die-off in Long Island Sound.

Scientists said the deaths were caused by several factors, including warmer-than-usual water, low



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

oxygen levels, unhealthy levels of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, and infectious diseases.

The findings were the result of three years of research by scientists in Long Island and Connecticut, who presented their conclusions at the fourth annual Long Island Sound Lobster Health Symposium at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Lobstermen first reported the problem when they found a high number of dead and diseased lobsters in their traps. The die-off rattled the industry, sending 75 percent of full-time lobstermen and New York out of the trade.

Shedding elephant weight

AK ANCHORAGE — Maggie needs to lose some weight, and it isn't easy finding a treadmill to keep up with her 9,000-pound frame.

The Alaska Zoo is building what it believes to be the world's first elephant treadmill as part of plans to enrich the life of its only elephant with better accommodation and activities.

At 9,120 pounds, Maggie could stand to slim down. Zoo officials are talking with engineers and manufacturers about building Maggie her very own exercise equipment.

"Elephants are just like people,



Little raker

One-year-old Kallie Griffin of Gordon, Wis., helps rake a lawn in Solon Springs, Wis.

they will be as lazy as they can be and still eat," said zoo director Tex Edwards.

Designing and building the first elephant treadmill could cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000, Edwards said.

The zoo has talked with mining experts because they know about heavy loads, conveyers and belts.

Grizzly attack

WY JACKSON — Weston Scott crept through the dense forest looking to flush out an elk. He got excited when he heard rustling about 10 feet ahead, in some bushes.

What Scott saw in those first seconds was a bear's head coming right at him. He drew up his rifle but managed only to get a shot off from about his hip before the 600-pound grizzly was on top of him.

It took out four teeth on Scott's lower jaw and a 1-inch portion of jawbone.

Scott later told his wife, Tammy, that he was sure he would die when he saw the bear so close. He told her the bear made no sounds — no grunting or growling.

Officials said the animal was then killed by a hunting companion acting in self-defense.

Fired for E.T. searching

OH COLUMBUS — The search for extraterrestrial life has ended at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The department fired a computer programmer who admitted to using a state-owned computer server to process data for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project, run by the University of California at Berkeley.

Charles E. Smith, 63, told administrators he didn't think building the SETI software on the server was much of a problem because he ran the program only on weekends and on weekdays between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., when the server wasn't being used, according to a disciplinary report.

Department director Tom Hayes disagreed.

"I understand his desire to search for intelligent life in outer space, because obviously he doesn't find it in the mirror in the morning," Hayes said. "I think that people can be comfortable that security has beamed this man out of our building."

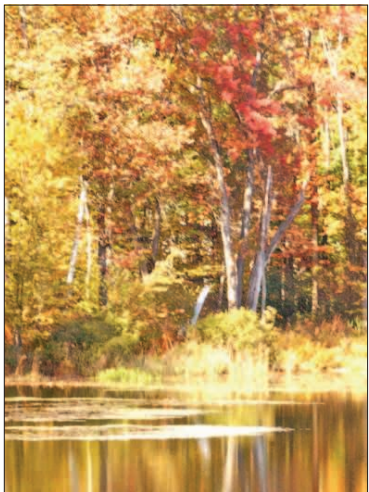
Task force criticized

PA PHILADELPHIA — The head of the Philadelphia school district has created a task force of religious leaders to establish closer ties with faith-based groups, a move critics say risks violating the separation between church and state.

Paul Vallas, the district's chief executive officer, said the panel could help with tutoring, mentoring, counseling and organizing faith-based clubs.

The task force of rabbis, ministers and other clergy could become one of the largest collaborations of its kind, according to national experts.

But opponents say the collaboration is inappropriate and could be illegal.



Ken Long of Turners Falls, Mass., fishes from his kayak in the Connecticut River setback in Vernon, Vt.



Fall fisherman

Ken Long of Turners Falls, Mass., fishes from his kayak in the Connecticut River setback in Vernon, Vt.



Relaxing study Rhonda Johnson, a fine arts major at Idaho State University, studies on the quad in Pocatello, Idaho.



Football for women Arizona Cardinals kick returner Josh Scobey, right, helps Kimberly Gallo of Chandler, Ariz., don his uniform as part of a Football Clinic for Women at the team's training facility in Tempe, Ariz.



Where the bear cub roams A black bear cub peers up a pine tree where its mother and sibling sat perched in Bozeman, Mont. The cub ambled around the back yard of a home before heading back up the tree.



Frat games Lee Boyd, left, cheers on "Prairie Dog Runner" during the Outhouse Blowout race in Graves, Ky. The group are members of Phi Kappa Tau at Centre College in Danville, Ky.

Driver gets 15 years

FL PORT LAUDERDALE — A driver who caused a deadly crash after running five stoplights at 70 mph because he was late for work was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Timothy Bacon, 40, pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide and other charges in a 2003 wreck that killed another driver, William Yates, 62.

Bacon told the judge that he "didn't know what came over" him the day of the crash. A toxicology report showed he had cocaine in his system.

Google solves the case

WA MOXEE — Google, the Internet search engine, has done something that law enforcement officials and their computer tools could not: Identify a man who died in an apparent hit-and-run accident 11 years ago in this small town outside Yakima.

Detective Pat Ditter of the Washington State Patrol searched with Google for about a week before identifying the victim as David Glen Lewis, 39, who died 1,606 miles from his home in Amarillo, Texas.

Lewis had no known ties to central Washington, and his presence in the area is still a mystery, Ditter said.

Ditter said he turned to Google after reading a series of newspaper stories about long-unresolved missing-person cases.

He came across a distinctive pair of glasses in a photograph on the Web sites of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Doe Network, an international volunteer organization devoted to solving unidentified cases.

Messy money

IA BURLINGTON — A psychiatrist made a stink over paying a parking ticket, using dirty money to cover the fine.

Police say Ronald Preston McPike has been charged with harassment of a public official for smearing excrement on dollar bills used to pay the ticket.

McPike, 52, pleaded not guilty to the charge, a misdemeanor, and was released on \$125 bond pending a Dec. 8 court appearance.

Officers received an envelope in July labeled "Foreign brown substance on bills."

Tests indicated the brown substance was fecal matter and indicated the stain patterns resulted from feces being smeared on the bills.

Arrest in accident

CT HARTFORD — Hartford police arrested a 12-year-old boy on a manslaughter charge, a day after his friend was killed when a screwdriver became lodged in his head. An autopsy determined that Errol Forrest, 12, died of an accidental head injury. But Hartford police said the injury resulted from reckless behavior.

Flower smuggler

FL MIAMI — An orchid dealer was sentenced to a year and five months in federal prison for scheming to smuggle prized tropical lady slipper orchids into the United States.

George W. Norris of Spring, Texas, was also sentenced to two years probation. Co-defendant Manuel Arias Silva, a Peruvian or-

chid grower, pleaded guilty in June and was sentenced in July to a year and nine months in prison.

The Peruvian lady slippers are considered seriously endangered in the wild and are protected by international treaty.

Remains to be reburied

NM LAS CRUCES — An anthropologist sent to survey partially buried ancient remains on federal land determined the bones belonged to a prehistoric American Indian. The bones will be reburied to comply with the Native American Graves Repatriation Act. The Bureau of Land Management wasn't sure which tribe the remains belonged to. A hiker found the remains after a washout.

Animal rescue ploy

OH MASON — An animal rescue group has admitted it created an advertising campaign for a fictitious restaurant serving horse meat to win support for its efforts to save horses from slaughter. Second Chance Horse Rescue ran the ads for the nonexistent Red Derby restaurant in local newspapers and on radio stations in Warren and Hamilton counties.

Trashy Big Apple

NY NEW YORK — New York's trash — 11,000 tons a day — will be hauled out of state on barges under a 20-year plan being proposed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The New York Times reported.

The plan would replace the city's current system of carting trash out of the state on garbage trucks, a method that critics complain increases traffic congestion and pollution.

New York has been searching for a solution to its trash problems since the closing of the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island in 2001.

Judge appointed

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Tom Colbert, chief judge of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals, was appointed as the first black member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Gov. Brad Henry appointed Colbert to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Daniel Boudreau. Colbert, 54, has been on the Court of Appeals for almost four years.

Park to get center

CA LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK — One of the nation's oldest national parks is getting its first visitors' center. Officials of Lassen Volcanic National Park have completed designating the 10,000-square-foot center. The \$10 million construction project will begin next spring and is set for completion in late 2006.

Mass transit incentives

NJ RIVERSIDE — Mortgage giant Fannie Mae has teamed up with NJ Transit to promote homeownership near mass transit in New Jersey. Under the program, anyone buying a home within a half-mile of an NJ Transit train station or within a quarter-mile of a bus stop may be eligible for mortgage assistance and perks from the two agencies.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The moon resides in Libra, and Mercury, Mars and Jupiter are there, too, not to mention the center of our solar system. Cooperation is essential to feeling good about your various roles in life. No man is an island, but if he were, he would be much happier in a group of islands like the Channel Islands or the Hawaiian Islands. Depend on friends.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 12). This year, you are able to forge ahead with projects and plans. Business associates may initially drag their feet, but any delays are only temporary. If single, you may find love while looking for it, either at the gym or in your neighborhood. Married Libras may face a few bumps in the road, but love and perseverance will win the day.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Love blooms anew, and it's better this time around than you dared to hope. This is your reward for past struggles. The universe is really working in your favor now, even if it's not exactly moving according to your schedule.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keeping up appearances for the sake of others classes you off to any help or comfort they may have to offer. Be honest with yourself, and you will reap great personal rewards. Sweep things under the carpet, and you'll just get ants.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Good partners are open and willing to learn. So really listen to what your partner is sharing with you. Don't rely on what you think you hear. That's only half the story. Ask for specifics. Don't miss this opportunity for real intimacy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mood affects everyone around you. Taking good care of yourself is the most selfless and loving act you can do. Feel confident that your loved one is safe. This protects him or her much better than fretting ever will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are remarkably resilient. Remember this when the one who loves you the

most thinks losing you by telling you the truth. Sometimes, the truths that are most important to hear are also the most painful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're one of the most independent signs in the zodiac, but are you willing to give up a little bit of your freedom for the sake of love? Be sure you and your mate are in accord over how much space each of you needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone — perhaps a child, parent or friend — may be putting away this Consider it an act of kindness. It's not because that person doesn't love you but because that person loves you so much, he or she is afraid of overpowering you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Rather than attempting to make your loved one feel jealous, try a more honest approach, and admit that you need some assurances that he or she still finds you desirable. It takes maturity and self-confidence for you to pull this off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The universe cannot say no to you. It can only limit how much it says yes. The question is, how far do you really want to go? Getting what you want out of life requires a great deal of personal courage, stamina and vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may find yourself in a moral dilemma. If you see an injustice in the workplace or on the street, are you obligated to take a stand against it? There's a fine line between protecting yourself and serving your own interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're an agent of change, which is why you always find yourself in the midst of conflict. Doing good in the world is bound to sometimes cause personal discomfort. If it were easy, more people would do it.

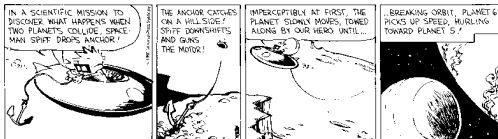
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Be prepared for delays, particularly regarding money. The check could be lost in the mail, or it may bounce, so be sure it clears the bank before paying your bills with it. But don't worry. Someone's looking out for you.

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Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



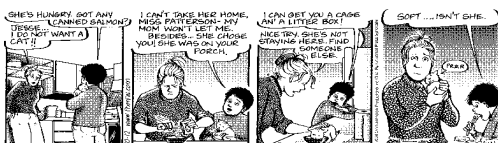
Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



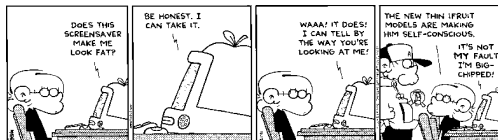
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Peanuts



Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



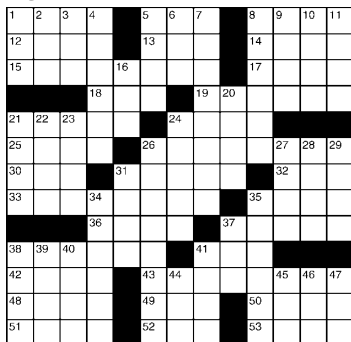
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Aiken of "American Idol"
- 5 Possesses
- 8 Venom dispenser
- 12 Peps rival
- 13 With 35-Across, thieves' thwarted
- 14 Maleficence
- 15 Frightened mildly
- 17 Wedding shower?
- 18 Youngster
- 19 A natural in Vegas
- 21 Curtain material
- 24 Read cursorily
- 25 Reed instrument
- 26 Carbohydrates
- 30 Orator's asset
- 31 Darmacoles worry
- 32 Right angle
- 33 Racetrack officials
- 35 See 13-Across
- 36 Nephew of Donald Duck
- 37 Incursion
- 38 Despotism one
- 41 Promptly
- 42 Time of prosperity
- 43 Pesky bird
- 44 Malaria symptom
- 49 Bran provider
- 50 Pennsylvania port
- 51 Charlie Brown expletive

Down

- 1 Medicinal meas.
- 2 Realtor's offering
- 3 Alias (Abbr.)
- 4 Dr. Seuss' turtle
- 5 Sentry's call
- 6 Pub mugful
- 7 Passengers' accommodations
- 8 "Lilium" author
- 9 Tail
- 10 Pleasant
- 11 Secluded valley
- 16 Piouette pivot
- 20 Fat
- 21 Pledges
- 22 Last wishes?
- 23 Greek vowel
- 24 Narrative
- 26 Sugar apple
- 27 Get wind of
- 28 Exile isle
- 29 Dispatch a dragon
- 31 Bedazzle
- 34 "Pulp Fiction" actor
- 35 One who earns pin money?
- 37 Supporting
- 38 Slope transport
- 39 Meditation exercise
- 40 Major defeat
- 41 Post-WWII alliance
- 44 Pitch
- 45 George's brother
- 46 Pinch
- 47 Comprehend

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-12

CRYPTOQUIP

OM O SPV RBUCL JWL
NPKLNPHH UMMOSOPH
DPXL P NHYVXLB, OK JWPJ

YDROBOSPH LCOXLVSL?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: the MONARCH
MAKES UP SO MANY UNTRUE TALES, PEOPLE
ARE CALLING HIM THE LYIN' KING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

Submission not always best move

Dear Abby: Your advice to "Bound and Gagged in Pennsylvania" has been considered correct in the past. As retired police captain, I would have given similar advice years ago. However, today, with information gained primarily from carjackings, as well as situations like the armed robbery described in your column, advice has changed.

Too often, victims who permit themselves to be tied up or abducted are assaulted or killed.

Every case is different, but perhaps the woman could have taken the opportunity when the girl stuck out to attempt an escape or to raise an alarm. You have to play any incident as you see it, but we no longer advise people to just give in.

— **Bill P., in Minnesota**
Dear Bill P.: Thank you for writing. A number of readers took exception to my answer, and their opinions deserve to be aired. Read on:

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: As a former police officer, I feel you did a disservice in judging the young robbery victim's reaction to the threat as wrong. It seems clear to me that she was acting on her strong instincts of self-preservation. I would be loath to characterize her response as improper.

In fact, I think she displayed tremendous courage. That robber had given neither woman any reason to trust him. There have been numerous instances in which victims were bound and gagged prior to being shot in the back of the head, execution-style, for no other reason than to prevent witnesses.

I would never suggest that anyone fight an armed attacker over mere money. However, when the attacker demands that you trust him with your bound-and-gagged life, I'd say the decision to fight or submit must be left with the person threatened.

— **Stephanie M. Bremen, Ohio**

Mom-in-law wearing out welcome

Dear Annie: A few years ago, I asked my mother-in-law to come live with my husband and me in order to help care for my children. Mom had a decent job and shared a room at a boarding house. Day-care costs were expensive, and I offered to pay my mother-in-law a small amount each month to watch the kids. I figured it would be a win-win situation.

I was wrong. As time went on, I grew to dislike having my mother-in-law here. She oversteps her boundaries when it comes to my kids, and we don't get along at all. I'd like to ask her to leave, but my husband is furious that I would consider it.

This whole situation has made me depressed. My kids will be old enough to watch themselves in a year, and I can't keep paying Mom for nothing. Mom and I fight constantly. She thinks this is her house, her husband and her kids. I want my home and family back. Do you think it's wrong of me to

Annie's Mailbox



ask her to leave?

— **Wilted Lily**

Dear Lily: It's perfectly understandable that you want to regain your authority as the "woman of the house." First, have a talk with your husband. If his mother is able-bodied, there is no reason he should place her happiness above yours. Explain that the situation

makes you depressed and you are worried about the long-term effect on your marriage. He needs to support your decision. You both can help Mom search for another job and an appropriate place to live, and even contribute toward her rent.

Then both of you need to talk to Mom. Tell her you love her and are willing to help financially, but soon the children will no longer need the extra care and you are afraid the circumstances will destroy the close bond you are trying to preserve.

Dear Stephanie: I bow to your expertise. You have witnessed violence and its aftermath more than I.

Dear Abby: Remember Flight 93 on 9/11? If the passengers on that plane had taken your advice, the plane would have either crashed into the White House or the Capitol. And remember the shoe bomber? If those passengers had taken your advice, they all would have died. Remember the advice they used to give to women who were about to be raped? "Don't fight back; you might get hurt." Wrong! You usually get hurt anyway, often killed after being tortured.

— **Bill M., Garrison, Mont.**
Dear Bill M.: In the cases you have cited, the choice was clear-cut — fight or die. Not every situation is this way. How does one know when to take the risk?

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYNOS

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SABIN

REPTIL

SEXOUD

www.jumble.com

Answer:

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PECAN GAMUT ALIGHT POPLIN

Answer: When the recruit was assigned a top bunk he was — "UP ALL NIGHT"

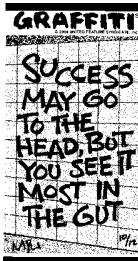
Family Circus



10-12

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"I'll stop being naughty, but I don't know what defiant is."

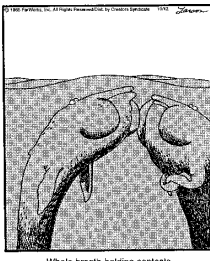


Dennis the Menace



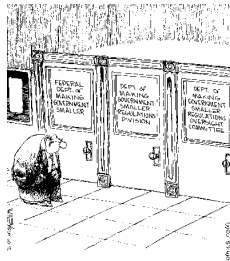
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The Far Side



Whale breath-holding contests

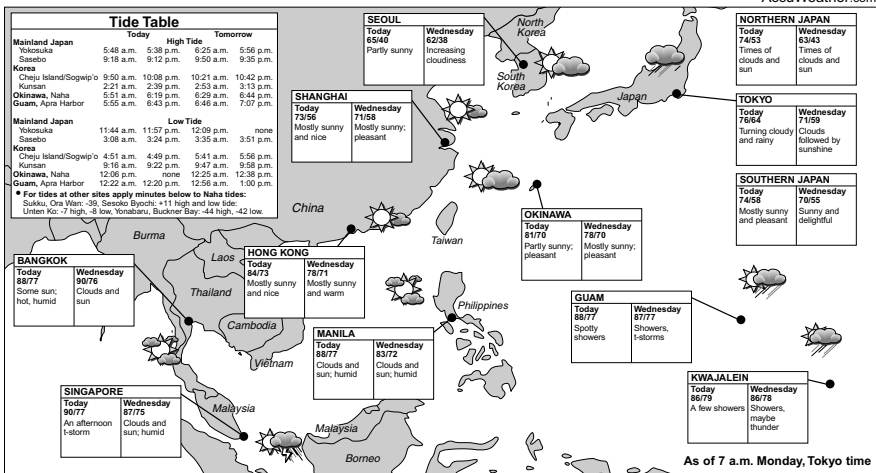
Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, high 68, low 57.
Friday: Partly sunny, high 67, low 60.

KADENA

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high 78, low 69.
Friday: Partly sunny, high 78, low 71.

SEOUL

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high 59, low 41.
Friday: Sunny, high 66, low 46.

MANILA

Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 72.
Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 69.

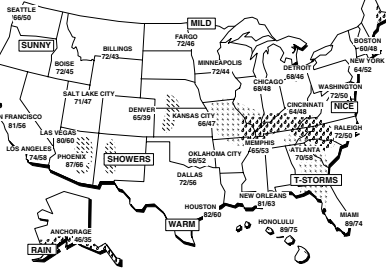
HAGATNA

Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 74.
Friday: Thunderstorms, high 85, low 75.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	72/50	Los Angeles	72/58
Amarillo	64/47	Little Rock	69/58
Anchorage	48/36	Louisville	77/50
Ashville	74/51	Madison	67/55
Baltimore	73/46	Milwaukee	63/44
Birmingham	73/65	Nashville	78/58
Bismarck	77/45	New York	69/49
Boise	66/39	Omaha	74/43
Boston	67/50	Orlando	87/70
Brownsville	89/67	Philadelphia	71/48
Buffalo	50/42	Phoenix	94/69
Burlington	61/45	Portland, OR	65/47
Charlotte, SC	81/65	Portland, ME	66/47
Charlotte	79/56	Salt Lake City	68/46
Cleveland	62/44	St. Louis	74/46
Columbus, OH	71/43	St. Antonio	84/60
Duluth	64/45	San Antonio	84/60
El Paso	79/53	San Diego	69/62
Hartford	68/45	San Juan	90/77
Helena	60/31	Tampa	89/72
Indianapolis	71/46	Tulsa	89/72
Jacksonville	85/70	Washington	73/49
Kansas City	72/47	Wichita	65/49

Tuesday, October 12



U.S. Extended Forecast

A powerful storm just south of New Brunswick will lift to the Northeast on Tuesday, and conditions will gradually improve over the Northeast as showers and strong winds come to an end. Another nice day is anticipated across the Midwest and mid-Atlantic Tuesday as high pressure remains in control. Showers associated with Matthew and a weak warm front lifting north will produce some showers across Tennessee and North Carolina. A cold front will begin to dig into the northern Plains Tuesday. As this storm pushes south, some of the coldest air of the season will work into the Upper Midwest by Thursday. Meanwhile, high pressure will remain the dominant weather feature across the West through the period.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/77	Wakani	76/59
Beijing	63/46	Kadena AB	81/70
Camp Casey	69/39	Kunsan AB	68/45
Diego Garcia	84/75	Kwajalein	86/79
Hagatna	84/75	Manila	88/77
Hanoi	88/68	Masawa AB	72/50
Hong Kong	84/77	Osan	66/43
Honolulu	84/73	Perth	64/43
		Pusan	74/53

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Buenos Aires	74/56	Budapest	50/30	Kabul	73/25
Cairo	62/51	Chengdu	59/48	Kiev	35/22
Cancun	100/63	London	53/41	New Delhi	87/58
Cape Town	88/72	Madrid	79/61	Oslo	44/33
Geneva	65/49	Mexico City	68/54	Paris	54/39
Istanbul	47/36	Montreal	61/43	Rio de Janeiro	76/66
Jerusalem	82/59	Moscow	87/73	Rome	68/48
Johannesburg	54/41	Odessa	33/21	St. Petersburg	39/34
				Stockholm	44/35
				Warsaw	41/29



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#52

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Kadena - 1994 Nissan Skyline GLE silver with black interior, power everything automatic, power windows, 4 door, excellent condition. CD player, coils and AMC asking \$3,500.00 or CASH! amc215@yahoo.com or call 633-2789

Kadena - 1994 Toyota Tundra Two tone pearl, 60,000km, ice

Kadena - 1995 Honda Civic, 70,000 miles, 1600 cc A/C, only 71,000's JCI thru 1998, all very reliable, available immediately. Call 633-8292 or Maurice at 633-0280 or email at murphy@att.net or timothej_4@hotmail.com

Kadena - 1995 Nissan Silvia sR20de 5 speed 17 inch rims, intake, exhaust and few other minor cosmetic items. No body damage will sell as whole or part out make offer call Cody at 633-8292 or email at speedracer17@aol.com for pictures.

Kadena - 1997 Suzuki Wagon 2000cc, fully loaded, turbo charged, great gas mileage, new CD player and stereo, 100,000 miles, automatic, 2005 Asking \$2,300.00 am take over payments. Must see listing.

Kadena - 92 Black Honda Prelude: H22A Vtec, Sunroof, HKS intake, Headers, Exhaust, 100,000 miles, 1600 cc, Vtec, Vtec racing rims, Runs perfect, JCI due Sept 2005. Drives like a dream. 800 CC. Call 633-3360 or 633-0154 if you keep maintenance, never had a problem. 800 CC. Call 633-3360 or 633-0154

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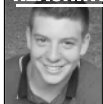


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Scrappy Vols nip Georgia

Third-ranked Dawgs fall short on late drive

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Tennessee hardly looked like the same team.

Neither did Georgia.

Bouncing back from a dismal loss at home the week before, No. 17 Tennessee got two touchdown passes from freshman Erik Ainge and held on for a 19-14 upset of the third-ranked Bulldogs on Saturday.

The Volunteers (4-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) looked terrible in a 34-10 loss to Auburn — especially Ainge, who threw four interceptions and lost a fumble in his first college start.

The freshman was much better in his first college road game, helping end Georgia's 17-game winning streak between the hedges.

"Coach told us there is nothing like going into someone else's house and being able to come into the locker room and sing after the game," said Ainge, who completed 12 of 21 passes for 150 yards and — most importantly — didn't have a turnover.

Georgia (4-1, 2-1) didn't come close to duplicating its previous game, a near-perfect 45-16 rout of defending SEC champion LSU.

Quarterback David Greene struggled against Tennessee's zone coverages and the Bulldogs kept hurting themselves with penalties.

"I can't explain it," said Greene, who threw a 50-yard, five-touchdown pass against LSU. "I couldn't explain it last week, and I can't explain it today."

Greene was only 15-for-34 for 163 yards, failing to throw even one TD.

The Vols, 12½-point underdogs, built a quick 10-0 lead and held off the Bulldogs at the end. Georgia squandered a chance to take



Tennessee's Gerald Riggs (31) struggles for extra yardage as Georgia defenders Greg Blue (17), Thomas Davis (10) and Derrick White (53) haul him down in the fourth quarter Saturday. Riggs ran for 102 yards as No. 17 Tennessee surprised unbeaten and No. 3 Georgia 19-14.

control of the SEC East. Georgia, Tennessee and Florida tied for first place last season, with the Bulldogs claiming the spot in the SEC title game because of their higher ranking in the BCS.

"This is a tough loss for us," coach Mark Richt said. "It puts us behind the eight-ball in our division. We've got to keep winning. There's no margin for error."

Driving from its own 12 to the Tennessee 19, Georgia had one shot at the end zone with a second remaining. Appropriately, Greene's pass over the middle didn't come close to connecting with anyone, falling harmlessly to the ground.

Tennessee snapped a four-game losing streak in the series, beating Georgia for the first time since 1999.

"They didn't really say anything this week, but you could tell they didn't have a lot of respect for us," Ainge said.

Undeterred by Ainge's performance against Auburn, coach Philip Fulmer started

him again. The Vols' other freshman quarterback, Brent Schaeffer, played only one series.

Tennessee built on a 13-7 lead after stuffing a fake punt by the Bulldogs late in the third quarter. Ainge threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hannon that made it 19-7 with 14:04 remaining in the game.

The Bulldogs were their own worst enemy. After getting called for only one penalty against LSU, they were flagged 12 times for 82 yards. The most crucial call came in the second quarter, when Bryan McClelland returned a kickoff to the Tennessee 2, only to have it wiped out by Leonard Pope's holding penalty.

Also, Andy Bailey missed a 29-yard field goal that might have made things easier on the Bulldogs in the final minute.

Georgia made it close when Danny Ware bounced off a tackler to score on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 4:22 remaining. The defense then forced a punt by twice stuffing Tennessee on short-yardage plays, but it didn't matter.

LSC edges Calif.

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern Cal seemed helpless as Aaron Rodgers picked away at its defense, lifting pass after pass.

But with California just 9 yards from a potential winning score, the Trojans finally found a way to stop the Golden Bears' near-perfect quarterback.

The top-ranked Trojans kept the seventh-ranked Bears out of the end zone after a first-and-goal with less than two minutes left and held on for a 23-17 victory Saturday.

"I was running on empty, our defense was running on empty, but I knew they weren't going to score," Trojans defensive end Shaun Cody said.

USC (5-2, 2-0 Pac-10) extended its winning streak to 14 games and avenged its only loss in the last 26. The Bears' 34-31 triple-overtime victory last season kept the Trojans from claiming an undisputed national title.

Before Cal's final four plays, Rodgers was 29-for-31 for 267 yards and a touchdown.

"It's frustrating as a defense when a guy is on fire like that," Cody said. "You've just got to hold on and try to do something to stop them from the end zone."

The Trojans just what the Trojans did after Rodgers got Cal (3-1, 1-1) to first-and-goal at the 9 with just under two minutes left.

Southern Cal got a sack and forced three incomplete passes.

Rodgers' final throw came with pressure coming and zipped by diving Geoff McArthur in the end zone, sending most of the more than 90,000 at the Los Angeles Coliseum into a frenzy and the Bears home with a hard-fought loss.

Matt Leinart threw two touchdown passes for the Trojans, who failed to get a first down in the fourth quarter.

"Anybody watching this game knows we really dominated the game. We just came up a little short in the score," said Rodgers, who tied an NCAA record by completing his first 23 passes.

It was the first time in 52 years the Golden Bears and Trojans met in a 16-yard score and Marshall Lynch plunging in from 2 yards out for Cal to make it 23-17.

Cal dominated the fourth quarter putting together two long drives, but the Bears failed to do was score.

"Bend but don't break, that's what this game became," Trojans coach Pete Carroll said.

Wisconsin feels at home in Ohio Stadium

BY RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Down 10-0, the Wisconsin Badgers had the Ohio State Buckeyes right where they wanted them.

The defense throttled No. 18 Ohio State and Anthony Davis dashed for 168 yards and a touchdown to lead No. 15 Wisconsin to a 24-13 victory Saturday.

It was Wisconsin's third straight victory on Ohio State's turf, the first time a visitor has done that since Illinois won four in a row from 1988-94. The Badgers had never before won even twice in a row at Ohio State in a series dating to 1913.

"We've been fortunate and played well," coach Barry Alvarez said. "It's nothing more than that."

Maybe it is. The last two times the Badgers came to town, Ohio

State broke out to a 17-0 lead and ended up losing 42-17 and 20-17. A year ago at Camp Randall Stadium, Matt Schaub hit Lee Evans with a 79-yard pass in the fourth quarter for a 17-10 victory.

"We show a (film) clip on Friday night and I showed the last three wins," Alvarez said. "Our guys are fighters. They're not going to fold their tents because they feel hindered."

The loss ended Ohio State's 18-game home winning streak, on the heels of last week's stunning 33-27 overtime loss to Northwestern, pinned coach Jim Tresselt with back-to-back losses for the first time in his 3½ seasons. The Buckeyes (3-3) also dropped to 0-2 in the Big Ten for the first time since 1992.

"All that talent we have out there, we should do more," said Ted Ginn Jr., who scored the Buckeyes' only touchdown on a

65-yard punt return in the first quarter.

Asked if it was difficult playing in the loud and raucous environment at Ohio Stadium, Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James said simply, "I don't think it's tough."

Wisconsin, 3-0 in the Big Ten, is 6-0 for the first time since 1998. That year the Badgers finished 11-1, shared the Big Ten title and won the Rose Bowl.

Sophomore John Stocco was steady all day for the Badgers, completing 15 of 24 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

"We didn't start off as well as we would have liked," Stocco said. "But we never quit and we never have. We just kept going, made a few plays and that was it."

He gave the Badgers a 14-7 lead with an 8-yard fade pass to Darrin Charles, then tossed a 10-yard scoring pass — also on a

fade pattern — to Jonathan Orr that capped the scoring. Orr's diving, highlight-reel catch came just three plays after Ohio State's Santonio Holmes muffed a punt, Wisconsin's Scott Starks shoving him aside and then falling on the loose ball at the Ohio State 17 early in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, Ohio State's own first-year starter at quarterback, sophomore Justin Zwick, and his ineffective offense were booed loudly by 105,000 partisan fans, the fifth-largest crowd in Ohio Stadium history.

Zwick completed 15 of 31 passes for 125 yards — with two of the completions and 27 of the yards coming in the final few seconds.

Shortly after the game ended, several players exchanged punches at midfield while coaches and police tried to pull them apart. The melee lasted for less than a minute, but was representative of the bad blood between the teams in recent years.

Air Force overcomes punts debacle to win

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A third-and-1 plunge play into the line was hardly the most exciting moment of the game. It was certainly the most important.

Adam Cole's 1-yard run with a meter left allowed Air Force to keep its abominable punt team on the sideline and hang onto a 28-23 win over New Mexico on Saturday night.

"I was begging somebody for a bottle of Pepto Bismol," Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry said.

The Falcons (3-3, 2-1 Mountain West) won despite nearly blowing a 21-0 halftime lead, having two punts blocked for touchdowns and shanking four more that failed to go 20 yards.

"It was somewhat of an embarrassment," DeBerry said. "We've never had that happen before."

Still, the coach said he was prepared to punt from his own 43-yard line had Cole not barely extended the tip of the ball beyond the first-down marker. DeBerry conceded he was so scared of bringing Donny Heaton out there again, though, that he was prepared to use the kind of formation teams normally use when they're punting from the back of their end zone.

Would it have worked? Nobody will know, and for Air Force, it's probably better that way.

Air Force averaged 19 yards on eight kicks, including 16, 19 and 18 yards in the third quarter that helped the Lobos (2-4, 0-2) close to 21-16.

DeBerry said he was still shaky from a high snap in the second quarter that forced him to run 25

yards to chase down the ball. The result: A 12-yard punt that, considering the circumstances, may have been his best of the night.

"After that, I had a lot more thoughts going through my head than I should have," he said.

With the lead trimmed to five after New Mexico's first blocked punt, Air Force quarterback Shaun Carney came through big.

Moments after the Falcons got their first first down of the second half courtesy of a roughing-the-punter penalty, Carney threw back-to-back completions — 33 yards to Greg Kirkwood and 30 yards to Adam Messerall to set up the touchdown that made it 28-16.

"Those were perfect throws," Lobos coach Rocky Long said.

Carney finished just 4-for-9 for 95 yards, but maybe DeBerry should think about letting him throw it more. The freshman came in as the sixth-rated passer in the nation and on this night, he came through when it counted most.

And given where this game seemed headed, the completions were, indeed, huge.

To the Mexico defense, awful in the first half, stopped Air Force three-and-out on five straight possessions to open the third quarter.

Trailing 28-16 with 4½ minutes left, Joe Selander scooped up the second blocked punt and ran 46 yards to cut the deficit to five. It was New Mexico's fourth touchdown off a blocked punt in its last 12 games.

"We try to block a lot of punts," Long said. "Tonight, punt blocks kept us in the game, but also cost us a lot of yards, because we roughed the punter."

Texas Tech hands Nebraska worst loss

The Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech handed Nebraska its worst loss in the Cornhuskers' storied 114-year history, with Sonny Cumble throwing for 436 yards and five touchdowns in the Red Raiders' 70-10 victory Saturday night.

Tech (4-2, 2-1 Big 12) recorded its first victory in eight tries against Nebraska (3-2, 1-1 Big 12), which set school records for points allowed and margin of defeat.

Before Saturday, the most points scored against Nebraska came in a 62-36 loss to Colorado in 2001. Nebraska's largest previous margin of defeat was 54, set in a 54-0 loss to Minnesota in 1943 and matched in a 54-0 loss to Indiana in 1944 and a 61-7 loss to Minnesota in 1945.

Cumble, who came into the game leading the nation in passing yards at 417 yards a game, threw TD passes of 22, 80, 6, 3 and 10 yards. It was his sixth straight game of more than 350 yards passing and his fourth of more than 400 yards this season.

For Nebraska, it was a numbing low for a longtime power that hasn't contended for a national title in recent years.

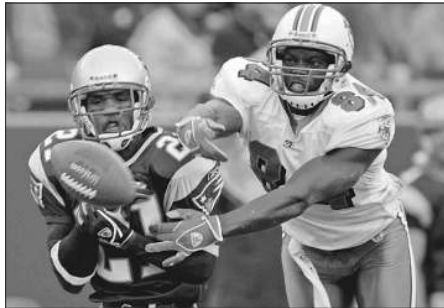
The Huskers won two national championships in the 1970s under Bob Devaney and three more in the 1990s under Tom Osborne. They had nine wins or more for 33 straight seasons and spent 54 straight weeks in the AP Top 10 before going 7-7 in 2002 under Frank Solich.

Solich replaced the retired Osborne in 1998, but was fired after last season despite going 10-3 and finishing 58-19 in six seasons.

Bill Callahan was brought in after a long search, and the former Oakland Raiders coach replaced Nebraska's traditional run-first mentality with a fast offense that emphasized the short pass.

But Saturday, the passing game buckled on Nebraska, which threw five interceptions and set up easy Tech scores.

Tech has scored 70 points in each of its two home games this year. The Red Raiders beat TCU 70-35 in September after trailing by 21.



New England Patriots cornerback Randall Gay (21) breaks up a pass intended for Miami Dolphins wide receiver Chris Chambers (84) during the second quarter Sunday in Foxboro, Mass.

AP

Patriots stretch streak

BY HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots set an NFL record for consecutive wins, counting playoffs, with plenty of help from the winless Miami Dolphins.

The Patriots won their 19th straight Sunday, a 24-10 victory built on two touchdown passes by Tom Brady and two more turnovers by the offensively inept Dolphins.

This Miami team is nothing like the one that no longer shares the record with five other teams. That one went 17-0 in 1972 and won its opener in 1973.

The Dolphins fell to 0-5, matching their worst start in history, as an expansion team in 1966 when they won their sixth game.

New England (4-0) won its previous 18 games by an average margin of just 8.9 points, fewer than any of the other teams that shared the mark: Chicago in 1933-34 and again in 1941-42; Miami in 1972-73; San Francisco in 1980-81; and Denver in 1997-98.

The Dolphins' problems began before the game when placekicker Olindo Mare left the field on a cart with an injured right calf.

They continued until the end when quarterback Jay Fiedler suffered a rib injury on a 12-yard sack that pushed the ball back to the New England 13. Two plays later, his replacement, A.J. Feeley, was shaken up when hit by Rosevelt Colvin as the fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

Miami also added to its NFL-high 14 turnovers and scored just one touchdown to add to its total of two in the first four games.

No. 6 Auburn keeps its momentum

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Letdown? No chance for No. 6 Auburn, which routed past Louisiana Tech 52-7 Saturday in a game the Tigers could easily have overlooked.

Instead, they got another easy victory and almost certainly a chance to continue their rapid ascent in the national rankings with losses by No. 5 Texas and No. 3 Georgia.

Still, coach Tommy Tuberville's focus was on, well, his team's focus.

"That's good to read and talk about, but it doesn't make any difference," Tuberville said. "If you're up there one week, you don't get a trophy for that."

They do get to enjoy their front-runner status as the lone remaining unbeaten in the Southeastern Conference, fresh from a 34-10 victory at Tennessee, which

Top 25

beat Georgia 19-14. Oklahoma topped Texas 12-0.

Next up for Auburn, 6-0 for the first time since 1997, is Western Division rival Arkansas.

Jason Campbell passed for 201 yards and two touchdowns, including a school-record 87-yarder to Silas Daniels. Ronnie Brown ran for 109 yards on 10 carries and Carlos Rogers returned an interception 53 yards for a touchdown.

No. 22 Oklahoma St. 42, Colorado 14: Vernand Morency ran for 185 yards and two touchdowns and Donovan Woods threw for three more scores for visiting Oklahoma State.

Oklahoma State (5-0, 2-0 Big

12) established its powerful running game early, blowing the Buffaloes back on Morency's 58-yard touchdown run on its third play. Morency added a 6-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, eclipsing 100 yards for the seventh straight regular-season game.

Georgia Tech 20, No. 23 Maryland 17: Georgia Tech ended Maryland's 13-game home winning streak in stunning fashion, blanking the Terrapins through three quarters and forcing out ineffective quarterback Joel Statham.

Reggie Ball threw for 197 yards and a touchdown to help the Yellow Jackets (3-2, 2-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) snap a two-game losing streak.

The Terrapins (3-2, 1-1) were undefeated at home since September 2002 and 21-1 at Byrd Stadium since coach Ralph Friedgen took over the program in 2001.



Minnesota Vikings' Nate Burleson, right, scores a touchdown behind Houston Texans' Aaron Glenn (31) in the second quarter on Sunday.

Cuypepper's fifth TD droms Texans

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The upstart Houston Texans proved they're never out of any game. The Minnesota Vikings' second possession in overtime, lifting Minnesota to a 34-28 win.

Robinson nearly had the same result two downs earlier, but dropped the ball when he was wide open in the middle of the field.

Cuypepper came right back to him on third-and-12 and Robinson hung on this time, racing all by himself the last 15 yards to the end zone.

The victory will come as a huge relief for the Vikings (3-1), who almost let it get away after building a 21-0 lead in the third quarter as Cuypepper picked apart the Texans.

His fourth touchdown of the game and second to Randy Moss covered 50 yards and made it a 28-14 midway through the fourth quarter. Cuypepper completed 36 of 50 passes for 396 yards.

David Carr rallied the Texans (2-5) with 372 yards passing and three touchdowns, two to Andre Johnson.

Steelers 34, Browns 23: Ben Roethlisberger, becoming more comfortable and productive with each catch, confused Cleveland with his running and creativity and the Steelers won their third in a row behind the rookie.

Duce Staley complemented Roethlisberger by running for 117 yards — his third consecutive 100-yard game — and scoring on a 25-yard run following rookie Richard Colclough's 59-yard return on the opening kickoff.

Roethlisberger was 16-for-21 for 231 yards and a touchdown to help the Steelers start 4-1 for only the third time in 22 seasons. The Browns (2-3) missed a chance to move over .500 for the first time

since late in the 2002 season.

Giants 26, Cowboys 10: Tiki Barber ran for 122 yards and a touchdown and Steve Christie kicked four field goals, leading the Giants to their fourth win, all in a row.

New York (4-1) overcame a slow start by taking advantage of mistakes by Dallas (2-2) and making some breaks for itself.

Lions 17, Falcons 10: Detroit finally scored a rushing touchdown and harrassed Michael Vick into three turnovers to keep Atlanta from its best start ever.

Joey Harrington threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to Az-Zahir Hakim on fourth down and Artose Pinner scored on a 1-yard drive with 1:57 left in the first half to put the Lions (3-1) ahead for good.

Detroit has won both its road games this season, after setting an NFL record by losing 24 straight away from home over the previous three years.

The Falcons (4-1) were denied the first 5-0 start in franchise history.

Colts 35, Raiders 14: The combination of Peyton Manning and Edgerrin James was too powerful for Oakland.

Manning completed 16 of 26 passes for 198 yards and three touchdowns, while James ran for 136 yards and a score to lead Indianapolis (4-1) past the Raiders for their fourth straight win.

Oakland (2-3) fell to its 12th consecutive road loss.

Buccans 20, Saints 17: Tampa Bay hoped the son of a former Super Bowl quarterback would help them get their first victory. They got their wish.

But it was not Chris Simms, son of 1987 Super Bowl MVP Phil Simms, who led the Bucs (1-4) to a victory. Simms, making his first NFL start, hurt his throwing shoulder in the first quarter and was replaced by Brian Griese, son of Bob Griese, who played in three Super Bowls.

Griese was 16-for-19 for 194 yards and the decisive touchdown to lead the Bucs to their first victory of the season. It was the second straight week that New Orleans (2-3) had lost to a previously winless team.

Gallacher wins Dunhill playoff

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Scotland's Stephen Gallacher won for the first time on the European tour, beating Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell on the first playoff hole Sunday at the Dunhill Links Championship.

Gallacher made a winning 4-foot birdie putt after McDowell's hit his second shot into a creek that runs across the front of the green on the first hole of the Old Course.

Gallacher shot a 5-under-par 67 in the final round. McDowell, who matched a course record with a 62 in the first round, carded a 68.

They totaled 269 in regulation to finish a shot ahead of European Ryder Cup players Ian Poulter (69) and Luke Donald (71).

Long putter comes through for Lehman

LAS VEGAS — Tom Lehman has a love-hate relationship with the long putter that sometimes makes its way into his bag. Lately, he's been finding a lot more to love about it than ever before.

Lehman, using the long putter he put back in his bag only last month, shot a 66 Saturday to take a one-stroke lead over Dicky Dier and Andre Stolz going into the final round of the Michelin Championship at Las Vegas.

Lehman took advantage of light morning winds to hit 17 greens, but it was his putting that helped him make eight birdies for his first 54-hole lead in five years.

Lehman's third round in the 60s put him at 17 under and in the final pairing on a Sunday for the first time since the Buick Open in 1999.

Pride shot 66 at TPC Summerlin, and Stolz had a 65 to follow an opening pair of 67s.

Phil Mickelson withdrew before the third round, citing illness.

Davenport earns 7th title of year

The Associated Press

FILDERSTADT, Germany — Lindsay Davenport won the Porsche Grand Prix on Sunday when top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo quit after losing the first set because of an injured left thigh.

Davenport captured this No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown for her tour-high seventh title of the year and 45th of her career.

"It's just a bad feeling — there's not a whole lot of joy in winning like this," Davenport said. "We played maybe one tough game, the first game, then her leg started bothering her."

Mauresmo will undergo tests to see if she can play in next week's Kremlin Cup. If the Frenchwoman withdraws, Davenport needs to win just one match to reach the top spot. Davenport trails Mauresmo in the WTA rankings by just 15 points.

Davenport won the first set 6-2 before Mauresmo withdrew because her heavily taped thigh hampered her movement. Mauresmo was hurt in the third game when Davenport broke serve to lead 2-1. After the next game, she left the court to have her thigh taped and was unable to chase down the American's shots the rest of the set.

"I am a little disappointed because I think we would have

Neumann picks up first victory in six years

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. — Liselotte Neumann won her first LPGA Tour title in six years, holding off a late charge by Grace Park for a three-stroke victory at the LPGA Asahi Ryokien International Championship on Sunday.

Neumann, the 1988 U.S. Women's Open champion, had come into the week with few expectations. Even her name on caddy Mark Scott's vest was incorrectly spelled. "Neumann." But with a final-round 68 and a 15-under 273 total, she won for the first time since 1998.

The victory didn't come easily. Park, who also closed with a 68, cut Neumann's four-shot lead to a stroke twice on the back nine.

But each time, Neumann held off the challenge. "I'm so relieved and so happy," Neumann said. "I don't even know what else to say."

Laura Davies (70), Kris Tincher (70) and Silvia Cavalleri (66) tied for third at 10 under.

Levi makes bid for back-to-back titles

SPRING, Texas — Wayne Lee shot a 5-under 67 to take a two-shot lead over D.J. Webber after two rounds of the Administrator's Business Classic.

Levi, coming off a victory at the Constellation Energy Classic and bidding for consecutive wins for the first time in his career, moved to 13-under 131 at Augusta Pines Golf Club. Webber carded a 7-under 65 and Hale Irwin (68) is another two shots back at 135.

Walter Hall, who shared a two-shot lead with Levi after an opening 64, had a second-round 72 and dropped five strokes off the pace. He tied with Peter Jacobsen (67), Jim Thorpe (69), John Harris (69) and Jim Dent (70) at 136.

Levi surged to the lead in the second round, marking birdies on four of his first five holes. He added a birdie at No. 13 to get to 14 under, but lost a stroke at 17 with his first bogey in 53 holes.

Mailman visits camp; still not clear on future

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Karl Malone showed up at the Los Angeles Lakers training camp Saturday to visit old teammates and club officials.

Malone's visit was purely social and his bearing on whether he might play this season, team officials said.

"It's not a bad sign, but really it's not a sign either way," said Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak, adding the club would welcome Malone's presence on the court.

The 41-year-old Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history, underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in late June. He opted out of his \$1.65 million contract with the Lakers at season's end, making him a free agent.

Malone has said he's not ready to play but hasn't ruled out returning this season.

"He's leaving his options open," Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said last week.

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich said he wouldn't try to persuade Malone to return.

"That would be something that would be grinding and grinding all the time. So for the mental health of the team right now, we're going as if it isn't going to happen," Tomjanovich said.

Lindsay Davenport returns a bid to Amelie Mauresmo in the final of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix

played a great match," said Mauresmo, who was going for her fourth title of the season.

Novak rallies to stop Dent
TOKYO — Jiri Novak rallied from a set down against Taylor Dent to win the Japan Open singles final 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 on Sunday.

Novak, the No. 5 seed from the Czech Republic, defeated Dent — the seventh seed — for his sixth career singles title.

"We both started out nervously," Novak said. "But I was able to relax as the match went on and picked up some confidence in the second and third sets."

Soderling captures first title

LYON, France — Sweden's Robin Soderling won his first ATP singles title, using a strong serve to defeat Belgium's Xavier Malisse 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 Sunday in the Lyon Open final.

Soderling previously lost finals in Stockholm, Sweden, and Marseille, France. Malisse has lost all six of his finals.

Nemechek completes weekend sweep

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Joe Nemechek completed a weekend sweep Sunday, holding off charging Ricky Rudd to win the NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Kansas Speedway.

This one was almost as close as his half-car-length victory over Greg Biffle in the Busch Series event Saturday, with Nemechek and Rudd racing side-by-side and bumping one with a lap to go before Nemechek took control again and beat Rudd to the finish by 0.081 seconds — about 1/4 car-lengths.

"There at the end I was trying to save gas and here come Ricky Rudd out of nowhere," Nemechek said. "I was like, 'Holy

Moley.' I had to get back on it. He got beside me one time, but I wasn't going to let it happen."

Nemechek was among a group of 10 drivers who stayed on the track when cars ahead of them pitted during a caution period late in the race, moving from 14th to fourth.

Another yellow flag on the ensuing restart left him in the same spot, and the veteran racer, who started from the pole for the second straight race, charged to the front once the green flag waved for lap 218 of the 267-lap event.

He passed Rudd and Jamie McMurray and dualed with championship contender Elliott Sadler before grabbing the lead on lap 231, staying out from the rest of the way for his fourth career victory and first since May 2003 at Richmond.

Biffle finished third, followed by Sadler, Jeremy Mayfield and Kurt Busch, who came into the race with a 12-point lead over Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the Nextel Cup standings and finished Sunday leading Earnhardt, who finished ninth, by 29 points.

Jeff Gordon, who finished 13th, is third, 79 points behind, after four of 10 races in NASCAR's new 10-man championship format.

Neither television broadcaster NBC nor radio's Motor Racing Network needed to use the 5-second delays announced earlier in the week in the aftermath of Earnhardt using a vulgarity during a victory interview on live TV last weekend. NASCAR fined Earnhardt \$10,000 and docked him 25 points, knocking him out of first place in the standings.



Joe Nemechek celebrates his Banquet 400 victory at Kansas Speedway on Sunday.

Americans close in on finals spot

BY ELOY O. AGUILAR
The Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Thanks to Brian McBride and Eddie Johnson, the United States can advance to the finals round of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup with a victory over Panama next week.

McBride scored in the 29th minute and Johnson, making his international debut, added a goal in the 75th to lead the United States over El Salvador 2-0 Saturday night.

"You do not win too many games on the road in World Cup qualifying," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "We finished this round without losing a game on the road, so I think that's a big plus for our team."

The United States (2-0-2) leads Group A of the North and Central American and Caribbean semifinals with eight points, three ahead of Jamaica and Panama (both 1-1-2), who played a 1-1 tie Saturday night in Panama City.

The Americans, who extended their unbeaten streak to 11 games, can clinch a berth in next year's six-nation regional finals



United States' Brian McBride moves the ball against El Salvador on Saturday in San Salvador. McBride scored to help the U.S. win 2-0.

with a victory Wednesday over Panama in Washington, D.C. After that, the United States faces the round Nov. 17 against Jamaica at Columbus, Ohio.

McBride took a pass from Kerry Zavagnin on the left side in the 29th minute, cut past defender Victor Velasquez and beat goalkeeper Misael Alfaro to the far post for his 26th goal in 81 international appearances.

"When I received the ball, I just tried to shield it and turn," McBride said. "I faked the shot, and the second time I was going to hit it but I faked again and they fell off again, and the ball set up

for the third time. I was in the pretty well."

Johnson replaced McBride in the 71st minute and scored four minutes into his first appearance with the national team. DaMarcus Beasley slotted the ball to Landon Donovan, who got by defender Marvin Gonzalez and sent the ball across to Johnson, who kicked it into the open net with his left foot from 2 yards out.

"I was lucky. I was in the right place at the right time," said Johnson, who has scored 11 goals for Dallas in Major League Soccer this season. "I moved into the box, and Landon made a very selfish play to pass the ball."

Schumacher gets back on track in Japan GP

The Associated Press

SUZUKA, Japan — Michael Schumacher asserted his authority in Formula One again Sunday with his 13th victory of the season but first since August.

The seven-time world champion captured the Japanese Grand Prix, which was run in sunshine after days of rain and a typhoon threat.

Schumacher won 12 of the first 13 races before losing three straight. In his previous race, he finished 12th in the Chinese Grand Prix, his worst finish since 1999.

"I didn't think too much about what happened at the last Grand Prix. I don't really take that into account, questioning anything," the German driver said. "There wasn't really the extra pressure."

Schumacher, with 83 career victories, clinched the drivers' title by finishing second in the Belgian GP behind Kimi Raikkonen and had gone winless since the Hungarian Grand Prix.

This was Schumacher's sixth win in the Japanese GP. Ferrari has won this race every year since 1999 — Eddie Irvine (1999), Schumacher (2000-02 and 2004) and Rubens Barrichello (2003).

"Coming here to Suzuka, which is a circuit I like very much, it's just nice and great," said Schumacher, who also won for Ferrari in 1997 and Benetton in 1995.

Schumacher was 14 seconds

ahead of his brother, Ralf, who finished 53 laps on the 3.6-mile circuit in second place in a Williams-BMW.

"I had Ralf in my mirrors for quite a while," Michael said. BAR-Honda had Jenson Button and Takuma Sato in third and fourth to nearly clinch second in the team standings. Fernando Alonso of Renault was fifth.

Schumacher spun in the last two races, each won by Barrichello.

The Brazilian's victories gave Ferrari 14 victories in 16 races — the only losses to Raikkonen and Jarno Trulli.

Barrichello had a mishap during qualifying that left him 15th, but he moved up to sixth before he tangled with David Coulthard on the 39th lap. That knocked both out of the race.

On the opening laps, both Schumachers pulled away. At the end of the first six laps, Michael led Ralf by three seconds. After the first round of pit stops, Michael increased his lead to 16.6 seconds at the end of lap 16. After the second round of pit stops were completed by the end of 40 laps, Michael Schumacher led his brother by more than 20 seconds.

"It was pretty clear which way it would go," Ralf said.

With only the Oct. 24 Brazilian GP left, the top spots in the driver standings are set: Schumacher (146 points), Barrichello (108) and Button (85).



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Braves scratch out win over Astros

J.D. Drew's hit in ninth forces deciding game in playoff series

By JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — As soon as Roger Clemens was gone, the Atlanta Braves pounced on the Houston Astros' bullpen and avoided another quick exit from the playoffs.

Adam LaRoche hit a tying, three-run homer in the sixth inning and J.D. Drew singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth to give Atlanta a 6-5 victory over Houston on Sunday that tied the best-of-five NL series 2-2.

"We get to go back home and the plane ride's a lot easier," Atlanta closer John Smoltz said. "We worked very hard to get home-field advantage and we need to take care of it. I feel like we got a break today."

Jaret Wright, the losing pitcher in Game 1, starts for the Braves on Monday at Turner Field against 20-game winner Roy Oswalt, who didn't get a decision in Game 2, a 4-2 Atlanta victory in 11 innings.

Pitching on only three days' rest, Clemens left after five innings with a 5-2 lead, but the Braves rallied against the bullpen to snap Houston's 19-game home winning streak. It was another agonizing loss in October for the Astros, still looking to win a postseason series for the first time.

"Strike are strikeouts. They've got to come to an end sometime," Braves manager Bobby Cox said.

Houston tried to mount its own comeback in the bottom of the ninth, when Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman singled off Smoltz with one out to put runners at the corners. Smoltz then



Atlanta pitcher John Smoltz, right, celebrates with teammates Mike Hampton (32) and Johnny Estrada (23) after closing out a 6-5 victory over Houston on Sunday, squaring the NL playoff series at two games apiece.

got his record 14th postseason victory when Jeff Kent grounded into a game-ending double play.

On the verge of its third consecutive first-round playoff exit, Atlanta made its move right after Chad Qualls replaced Clemens. Chipper Jones singled, Andrew Jones doubled with one out and LaRoche homered into the Astros' bullpen in right.

The winning rally began when Russ Springer, who relieved Brad Lidge to start the ninth, hit Rafael Furcal with a pitch with two outs.

Furcal stole second, a key play as it turned out, as Drew, hitless in three previous at-bats Sunday and 2-for-15 in the series to that point, singled to right-center. Furcal scored easily.

"Three runs is not enough

against that team," Kent said. "And then they bring in a guy like Smoltz, who is dominating. It's tough to score runs against him. You have to get ahead against them early so you don't have to face a guy like that."

Coming into Sunday, Clemens was 0-3 with a 6.98 ERA on short rest. He was making a quick turnaround for the first time since

April 11, 2002. And he hadn't pitched on three days' rest in the postseason since a loss to Oakland in 2000.

Not surprisingly, Clemens got off to a rough start. He gave up three straight singles to begin the second, with Andrew Jones driving in Chipper Jones. LaRoche followed by grounding into a double play that scored Johnny Estrada to give Atlanta a 2-0 lead.

Clemens got the Astros' offense going in the second with his first postseason RBI, a sacrifice fly that scored Kent.

The inning appeared to end on Craig Biggio's popup that hit the rafters and was caught by Atlanta starter Russ Ortiz. But the ball was ruled foul, and Biggio followed with a three-run homer that sailed over the left-field fence and sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Carlos Beltran followed with a double and Bagwell singled him in to give the Astros a 5-2 lead.

Houston fell apart when Clemens left, and the sellout crowd of 43,335 got eerily quiet.

"He was at the end of his road," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "As a matter of fact, he was on pure fumes. He got us through it. We had some momentum, we had the lead. We let it slip away."

Chipper Jones had a different take on the Braves' comeback.

"We overcame a fluke five-run rally," he said. "You're just thinking to yourself right there that there is no way we're going to end our season on that note."

With the score 5-5 in the eighth, Houston put runners at the corners and threatened to take the lead. But pinch hitter Orlando Palmeiro hit a grounder that second baseman Marcus Giles scooped up and flipped to Smoltz — just before Palmeiro got to the bag — for the final out of the inning.

"This isn't a new situation," Houston catcher Brad Ausmus said. "We've been on the cusp of being eliminated numerous times. We've seen the end of the plank. We've seen the shark-infested waters."

Thanks to Lima, Dodgers still have life

By JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Never has "Lima Time" meant so much or been this good.

Jose Lima pitched a five-hitter Saturday night and the Los Angeles Dodgers staved off elimination in their first-round NL playoff game by beating the St. Louis Cardinals 4-0.

Steve Finley hit a two-run double and Shawn Green hit two solo homers as the Dodgers won their first NL Series game since the 1988 World Series.

Lima, an animated 32-year-old right-hander who has struggled for much of the last five years, followed two miserable outings by Los Angeles starters with his first complete game since 2001.

"It doesn't get any better than this right here," Lima said. "I knew I was having a great game,

but I didn't want to be too excited and get away from my game. I kept telling myself every batter, 'Jose, if you get this guy out, you will win the game.'"

Working against the team that led the NL in batting (.278) and runs (855), Lima pitched his second career shutout, striking out four and walking one.

Larry Walker, Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen, the Cardinals' 2-3-4 hits, were a combined 0-for-12. Jim Edmonds, who bats fifth, had two hits, as did leadoff hitter Tony Womack.

"I tried to keep at least one of those guys off base," Lima said of the Cardinals' heavy hitters. "I tried to stay away from big innings."

Lima pumped his fist, shouted and pointed at teammates in celebration and practically danced off the field after setting the Cardinals down in the ninth inning. Be-

fore his warmup throws in the first inning, he used his finger to draw on the back of the mound the initials of his wife, son, mother and late grandmother, who died 2½ months ago.

"He's always been like that," Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders said. "One thing, on our part, you can't get too hyped up or too caught up on that. Lima has always been Lima. He tries to get you caught up in his world. He did tonight."

After he retired the Cardinals in the eighth, the crowd of 55,992 largest at Dodger Stadium since Game 2 of the 1988 World Series — chanted, "Lima! Lima! Lima!" He came out of the dugout to take a curtain call.

"I don't know that you can do it much better," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "That's not bad for someone who came to spring training not guaranteed a job."

Lima signed a minor league contract with the Dodgers last winter. He went 21-10 with the Houston Astros in 1999, but was 7-16 the following year. He pitched in the independent league in 2003 before joining the Kansas City Royals in June.

Tracy said that, had the Cardinals gotten a runner on base in the ninth, he would have gone to closer Eric Gagne. It didn't happen, as Lima retired Pujols and Rolen on fly balls and Edmonds on a popup.

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said few of Lima's 109 pitches went down the middle.

"We had a lot of trouble getting to the top of the ball, made a lot of outs in the air," La Russa said. "He did a very good job."

Odalis Perez, rocked for six runs in 2½ innings in Tuesday's opener, drew the Sunday night start for the Dodgers against Jeff Suppan. A fifth and deciding

game, if necessary, would be played Monday night in St. Louis. No NL team has won the division series after falling behind 0-2 since the expanded playoffs began in 1995.

Los Angeles had lost eight postseason games in a row since beating Oakland in the 1988 World Series. The Dodgers were swept 3-0 by Cincinnati in 1995 and by Atlanta the following year, then didn't even reach the playoffs until this year, when they twice lost 3-3 in St. Louis.

Lima, 9-1 with a 3.08 ERA at Dodger Stadium this season, faced more than four batters in an inning only once — when the Cardinals put two on with two outs in the fifth. Losing pitcher Matt Morris grounded into a forfeit to end the threat.

Green hit solo homers off Morris in the fourth and sixth to give Los Angeles a 4-0 lead, both blows sending the crowd into a frenzy.

SPORTS



Culpepper's 5 TD passes lift Vikings over scrappy Texans in overtime, Page 36

New York ready for rematch

Red Sox await after Yankees' 11th-inning win in Minnesota

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — For Alex Rodriguez and the New York Yankees, Minnesota proved to be little more than a speed bump, barely slowing them down on their race to meet the Red Sox.

A big home run by Ruben Sierra, a timely 11th-inning hit by Rodriguez and the Yankees beat the Twins 6-5 Saturday to win the first-round playoff series in four games — and a date with Boston for the AL pennant.

"This is what everybody drew up in spring training and now everybody gets to see what it's all about," Yankees star Gary Sheffield said. "When Schilling went to the Red Sox and when A-Rod came here, that's what everybody wanted to see."

The AL championship series opens Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium, with Curt Schilling likely to start for the Red Sox against Mike Mussina.

Sierra's three-run homer in the eighth inning tied it, then Rodriguez doubled, alertly stole third base and scored in the 11th on Kyle Lohse's wild pitch.

Rodriguez hit 421 in the series, best among the Yankees, with three doubles and a home run.

"What makes you a complete player and a winning player is being asked to do the little things," Rodriguez said. "You can't play big ball all the time."

Minnesota led 5-1 behind ace Johan Santana before another New York rally. The Yankees came from behind for all three wins in this series after setting a major league record with 61 comeback victories during the regular season. Nine of those were from deficits of four runs or more.

"I've never been around so many guys that believe in themselves," Rodriguez said. "We have so many guys with big, big hearts."

Said Twins manager Ron Gardenhire: "They find a way. They've just got so many great hitters."

For the second straight year, New York lost the first-round opener to Minnesota, then won three straight and advanced to



NEWSDAY/RTT

Alex Rodriguez celebrates as the New York Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 6-5 in 11 innings in Game 4 of their playoff series Saturday. New York won the series 3-1.

the AL championship series.

The Yankees won that matchup with the Red Sox last October on Aaron Boone's homer in the 11th inning of Game 7, then lost 4-2 to Florida in the World Series.

Boston spent the offseason competing with the Yankees for Rodriguez and others, then went 11-8 against the Yankees this year, finishing three games back in the AL East but winning the wild card. The

Pitched battles



Rocket doesn't have enough gas left to eliminate Braves

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Lima mystifies Cards as L.A. stays alive

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Red Sox then swept Anaheim in the first round.

Winning pitcher Mariano Rivera, who blew a rare postseason save chance in the eighth inning of Game 2, retired six straight batters to finish a stifling performance by the Yankees bullpen. After Javier Vazquez allowed five runs in five innings, Esteban Loaiza and Tom Gordon each threw two scoreless innings.

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Patriots roll over Dolphins, set league record with 19th straight victory

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17th-ranked Tennessee turns around season with surprising victory over No. 3 Georgia

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Nemechek pulls off Kansas sweep

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